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MARVEL AGE®

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FEATURING: STRANGE™ TALES, DR. STRANGE,™ SOMEPLACE STRANGE, AND SPEEDBALL!™

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SALICRUP'S SECTION

Remember the recent issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE which previewed the animated **X-Men** pilot? Well, not only was that issue a smash sales sensation, but it had to be one of our most popular issues in awhile! Also we've been swamped with requests from desperate Mutant-maniacs begging to get a look at the show itself. So because you demanded it, we'll be showing the X-Men pilot this summer at most of the major comic book conventions! Are we swell or what?

"Which comic book conventions?" you ask? "How do I find out more information?" you query. Just check out the following:

April 22–24 — WONDERFUL WORLD OF COMICS, Hyatt Regency & Oakland Convention Center, Oakland, CA. For information contact the Wonderful World of Comics, 2831 Miller St., San Leandro, CA 94577 — phone: (415) 352-5832.

May 13–15 — DIXI-TREK, Sheraton Century Center Hotel, I-85 at Clairmont Road, Atlanta, GA. For information contact Dixi-Trek, c/o L. Ogletree, 810 Club Lakes Pkwy., Lawrenceville, GA 30245 — phone: (404) 381-7272.

June 24–26 — ATLANTA FANTASY FAIR, Atlanta Hilton & Towers, Courtland & Harris Streets, Atlanta, GA. For information contact the Atlanta Fantasy Fair, T. Loggins, 482 Gardner Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 — phone: (404) 474-6102.

July 1–3 — CHICAGO COMICON, Ramada O'Hare Hotel, 6600 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont, IL. For information contact the Chicago Comicon, 1219 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, IL 60660 — phone: (312) 743-4493.

August 4–7 — SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON, San Diego Convention Center & Omni Hotel, San Diego, CA. For information contact San Diego Comic-Con, P.O. Box 17066, San Diego, CA 92117 — phone: (619) 442-8272.

Stan Lee, **Tom DeFalco**, **Sergio Aragones**, **Mark Bagley**, **Chris Claremont**, **Archie Goodwin**, **Mark Gruenwald**, **Terry Kavanagh**, **Ron Lim**, **Ralph Macchio**, **Doug Murray** and **Wayne Vansant** are among the Marvel guests who will be on the convention circuit. Different folks will attend each con.

We'll also be handing out free copies of the MARVEL AGE ANNUAL as well as posters and other giveaways. As usual Marvel editors will be reviewing art portfolios, and showing copies of upcoming issues of various Marvel titles. So don't be shy, step up to the Marvel booth and say hi! See you there!

—Jim Salicrup

MARVEL AGENDA

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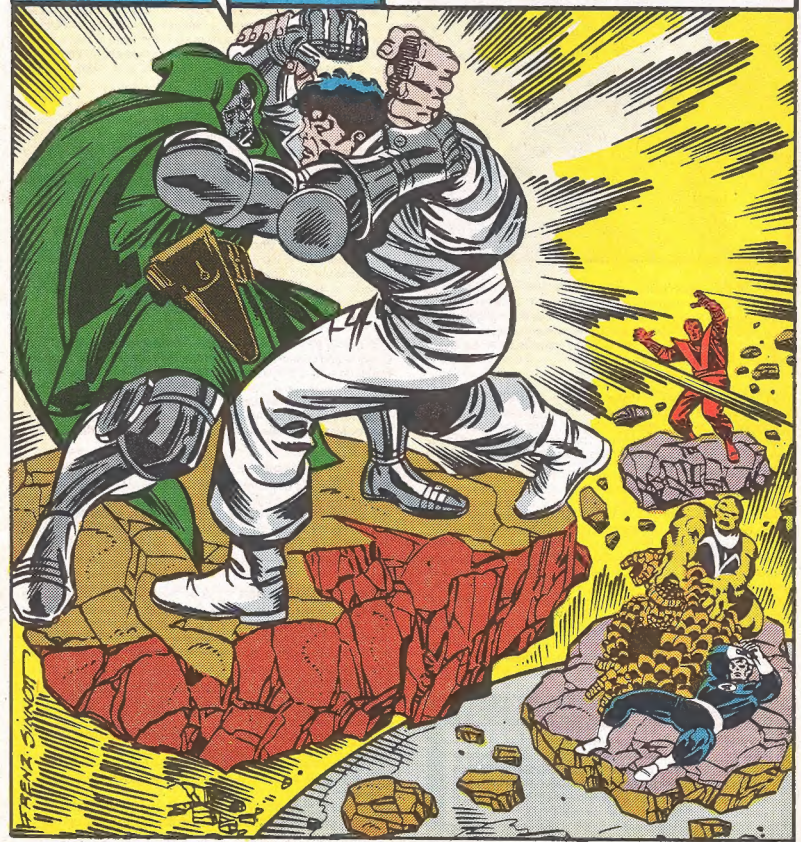
MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel, Epic, Star,** and **New Universe** titles with an **October** cover date.

SPEEDBALL and the **EXCALIBUR** monthly series debut! **THE UNCANNY X-MEN, G.I. JOE,** and **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** go biweekly for the summer! The **Evolutionary War** rages on in **THE UNCANNY X-MEN ANNUAL, THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL,** and **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL!** And that's just a hint of the excitement you can expect next month! Don't risk missing out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles today!

Titles Shipping June 7
On Sale June 28

☐ **DAREDEVIL #259** — It's a giant-sized battle saga! **Typhoid Mary** has freed a prison full of inmates — and they're all after **Daredevil!** How can **Daredevil** defeat an enemy which includes **Ammo, Bullet, the Wild Boys** and **Bushwacker** and that outnumbers him 1,000 to 1! "Vital Signs" is written by **Ann Nocenti,** penciled by **John Romita Jr.,** and inked by **Al Williamson.** $1.50.



Doctor Doom versus the Beyonder in FANTASTIC FOUR #319. Cover penciled by Ron Frenz and inked by Joe Sinnott.

☐ **THE BLACK PANTHER Limited Series** #4 — It's the chilling climax to this action-packed Limited Series as **T'Challa** battles the mystic **Panther Spirit** . . . with the fate of his nation hanging in the balance! "A Cat Can Look at a King" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Denys Cowan**, and inked by **Sam De La Rosa**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #22 — The **Horde** has destroyed his family. With his life in ruins, a young man may have no choice but to undergo the Morituri process and gain super powers . . . even though it's going to cost him his life! "The Long Suicide" is written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **Jon Calimee**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **MARVEL AGE ANNUAL** #4 — Featuring all-new five-page stories of SPEEDBALL (plotted and penciled by **Steve Ditko** and scripted by **Roger Stern**), DAMAGE CONTROL (written by **Dwayne McDuffie** and illustrated by **Ernie Colon** and **Jon D'Agostino**), **the Shadow Line Saga** (written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark**, penciled by **Denys Cowan**), and (lest we forget) WOLVERINE (written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Klaus Janson**). Plus: Marvel A to Z, our annual review of what's coming next year in every single Marvel Universe, New Universe, Epic, and Star series! And if you still want more, how about the Marvel Trivia Quiz, a Marvel poster contest, and a cover drawn by **Art Adams**? Direct sales only. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **PSI-FORCE** #24 — **Psi-Force** breaks into CIA headquarters — and the effort costs one of the team members her life! "Tears Hot on Skin Cold" is written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Mark Bagley** and inked by **Mike Witherby**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. Mando offset paper. $1.25.

☐ **TALES OF G.I. JOE** #10 — Re-presenting from G.I. JOE #10: Why would the **Joes' Snake Eyes**, **Scarlett**, and **Zap** try to infiltrate the peaceful town of Springfield? Because it's the secret stronghold of Cobra, of course! But getting into the town is easy — the hard part will be getting out! "A Nice Little Town Like Ours . . . " is written by **Steven Grant**, penciled by **Mike Vosburg**, and inked by **Chic Stone**. 32 pages on Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE 'NAM MAGAZINE** #3 — Re-presenting from THE 'NAM #s 5 and 6: Private **Ed Marks** experiences the atrocities of war first hand while his corrupt Top Sergeant starts to get in over his head! "Humpin' the Boonies" and "Monsoon" are written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **John Beatty**. A black and white Marvel magazine. 48 pages. $2.00.

☐ **NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. Limited Series** #4 — The scene shifts to Hong Kong as **Nick** and his allies travel overseas to learn more about the corruption that's eaten away at **S.H.I.E.L.D.**! **Madame Hydra's** on hand, too . . . but is she friend or foe? "The Eastern Connection" is written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Paul Neary**, inked by **Kim DeMulder**, and cover painting by **Joe Jusko**. A 48-page graphic album. $3.50.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #37 — The **West Coasters** can endure pretty much any threat . . . when it comes from the outside, that is. But when an internal schism splits the team in two, can the **Wacos** survive the call of "Avengers Dissassemble?" Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

☐ **WOLFPACK Limited Series** #3 — A rumble between rival gangs in the South Bronx is bad enough. But when one of the gangs gets its hands on the latest in high-caliber weaponry, the South Bronx is in for an all-out gang war that could even wipe out **Wolfpack**! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

☐ **EXCALIBUR** #1 — Now in its own monthly series! The **Warwolves** are hunting **Phoenix** . . . and **Shadowcat** is hunting the **Warwolves**! And to top it all off, here comes the newest addition to the **Excalibur** line-up — the mutant robot **Widget**! "Warwolves of London" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Alan Davis**, and inked by **Paul Neary**. 32 pages. Mando paper. $1.50.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #77 — Now biweekly! With the troop withdrawal from Cobra Island underway, the Government needs someone to pin the blame on — and they've picked the **Joes**! How can **Hawk** and the rest of the team clear their names? And while all of that's going on, what will happen when **Destro** learns that **Cobra Commander** is actuallly an impostor? "Aftershocks" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #43 — Sure, **Spidey's** wanted to get **Betty Leeds** out of the religious cult she joined. But when **Flash Thompson** takes matters into his own hands by kidnaping her, whose side will the wall-crawler be on? Meanwhile, **Mary Jane** wouldn't really model for a revealing lingerie catalogue . . . would she? Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. $1.00.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #235 — Now biweekly! What do the **X-Men** do when they're not fighting mutant menaces? You'd be surprised! All we can say is that the **X-Men** better enjoy these good times while they can, because **Inferno's** coming! "Vanities" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Mark Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green**. $1.00.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.
A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.
A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.
A **Graphic Album** is a high-quality, stiff-cover comic book edition.
A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.
Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **WHAT THE--?!** #3 — More wacky and way-out satire in the tradition of the '60s humor mag NOT BRAND ECCH! Tickle your funny bone with parodies of last year's climactic **Spider-Man/Kraven** story (starring **Peter Porker, the Spectacular Spider-Ham**, no less!) written by **Glenn Herdling**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**, the **Vizzion** and the **Scarlet Wench** written and penciled by **Richard Howell** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**, an **Ecchs-Men** beach party scripted by **Kurt Busiek** and drawn by **Kyle Baker**, and a wacky new disciple for **Doctor Deranged** written and illustrated by **Fred Hembeck**? 32 pages. $1.25.

Titles Shipping June 14
On sale July 5

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #346 — The Government isn't too happy with the new **Captain America** — not after he slaughtered the **Watchdogs** last month! They've given him one chance to make amends . . . by rounding up the mutant **Resistants**, with **Battle Star** and the ex-evil mutants of **Freedom Force** at his side! "Ambush" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dywer**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. 75¢.

☐ **SOLO AVENGERS** #11 — Two action-packed adventures for the price of one!

Hawkeye's sure got his hands full this time around! Not only does he have to cope with a foe who can take over the bodies of the people around him, but he's also got to avoid being skewered by "The Claws of the Bobcat!" Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Jose Marzan**.

Also: **Dionysus**, the Greek god of good-timin' fun, is determined to kill himself! Only **Hercules** can stop **Dionysus**, but this time, **Hercules** discovers that the only way he can save his friend is by using his brain, not his brawn! Written and penciled by **Bob Layton** and inked by **Jackson Guice**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES** #19 — It's two, two, two comic books in one!

An old colleague of **Reed Richards** has gone mad. And unless **Cloak** and **Dagger** can overcome their own troubles in time to help the **Thing** and **Mayhem**, a major chunk of New York is going to get atomized! "Volatile Combination" is written and inked by **Terry Austin** and penciled by **Eric Larsen**.

Plus: **Doctor Strange** battles an occult monster that is out to kill a family living in the mountains. Sounds simple, right? But the real question is, *why* is the monster after this family only? The truth is revealed in "Servants of the Secret Fire" written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Richard Case**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. Final issue. 75¢.

☐ **ALF** #8 — Ever wonder what would have happened if ALF had crash-landed someplace other than the **Tanners'** garage? At last, you'll discover the hilarious answer, as ALF enters his "Wotif" simulator to experience the saga of "Landing on the Ochmonek's Roof!" Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #306 — Now biweekly! Once, Empire State University cut off the funding for his insect research. Now, **Humbug's** back to take his revenge! And lurking in the background is one of **Spidey's** oldest foes! Plus, to top it all off, what are the sinister **Jonathan Caesar's** evil intentions toward **Mary Jane**? Written by **David Michelinie** and drawn by **Todd McFarlane**. $1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #44 — Evildoers and ne'er-do-wells beware! **Groo** may not have his swords, but his dog **Rufferto** does — and **Rufferto's** the best there is at what he does! Written and illustrated by **Sergio Aragones** and marveled by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. 32 pages. $1.00.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #68 — As the **New Mutants** fight to rescue mutant rock star **Lila Cheney** from **Spyder's** intergalactic slave traders, the bedazzling **Gosamyr** joins the team! But does **Gosamyr** simply want to escape from **Spyder**, or are her motives really darker than that? Written by **Louise Simonson** and illustrated by **Bret Blevins**. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #4 — Four — count 'em — four senses-shattering stories in a single comics magazine!

WOLVERINE part 4: There's a new menace in town. His name's **Razor Fist**, and if you think he reminds you of the way **Wolverine** used to be, imagine how **Wolverine** must feel when he has to fight him! "The Ordeal" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Klaus Janson**.

SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU part 4: **Shang-Chi** embarks on a quest to track down **Leiko Wu**, the woman he loves! Will he live to find her? Written by **Doug Moench**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Dave Cockrum**.

MAN-THING part 4: The search for the super-soldier formula continues! Will it create an army of **Captain Americas** or an army of muck-encrusted **Man-Things**? Written by **Steve Gerber** and illustrated by **Tom Sutton**.

Plus complete in this issue: **Thor** battles the **Fear Worm**, the creature who can bring your greatest fears to life! Written and illustrated by **Al Milgrom**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **SAINT GEORGE** #2 — **Michael Devlin** faces menaces both down-to-earth and out of the ordinary as he takes on terrorist drug runners and the fearsome **Shadow Dweller**, **Shreck**! What is "The Thing in the Closet"? Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and illustrated by **Klaus Janson**. An Epic Comic. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

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☐ **D.P. 7** #24 — **Mastodon's** decided that he has to get out of the Army, no matter what! But is his only way out . . . suicide?! "Enough" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 32 pages. Mando offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **STAR COMICS MAGAZINE** #12 — You say you missed **ALF's** first adventures? Well, catch those uproariously rib-tickling tales of television's (and comics') favorite **Alien Life Form** here! And, with more classic tales from MUPPET BABIES, HEATHCLIFF, MADBALLS, and THE FLINTSTONE KIDS any blues you might have will definitely be chased away! Cover by **Warren Kremer**. A Star Comics Digest. $1.50.

☐ **THE X-MEN ANNUAL** #12 — The Evolutionary War rages on! A massive, three-way battle is brewing when the **High Evolutionary** decides to rebuild the decimated Savage Land! Can the **X-Men** survive a head-on encounter with not only the **High Evolutionary** but also the gargantuan **Terminus**? Also: Once again, it's those diminutive mutants, the **X-Babies**! "Resurrection" and "Cattle Call" are written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Art Adams**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 64 pages. $1.75.

☐ **THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #152 — Can even the savage **Conan** the Cimmerian know fear? You'll learn the shocking answer when **Conan** enters the "Valley Beyond the Stars!" Scripted by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A 64-page, black and white Marvel magazine. For Mature Readers. $2.00.

☐ **AKIRA** #2 — For all his awesome power, it looks like **Mutant #26** isn't the mysterious **Akira** after all! Who is **Akira**? And what is the secret of **the Colonel's** mutant project? "Pursuit" is written and illustrated by **Katsuhiro Otomu**, with the English adaptation written by **Jo Duffy**. A 64-page Epic Comics graphic album. For Mature Readers. $3.50.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN** Trade Paperback — Re-presenting from THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s 252–259: **Spidey's** got a new, black costume. But he doesn't know that it's actually a sinister alien being! And what he doesn't know could kill him! Written by **Tom DeFalco** and **Roger Stern**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and **Rick Leonardi**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**, **Bill Anderson**, and **Josef Rubinstein**. 192 pages. $9.95.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #27 — **Heathcliff** and **Iggy** become hardboiled detectives to solve the case of the century (or is it "scentury?") when they set out to crack the "Case of the Missing Mackerel!" Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **SPEEDBALL** #1 — Make way for the newest teen hero in the Marvel Universe — **Speedball**! Meet **Robbie Baldwin**, a boy who has all the problems of a normal teenager, but with one exception — he's secretly the super hero **Speedball**! You'll find the incredible origin of **Speedball** *plus* a second thrilling adventure of **the Masked Marvel** in this special debut issue! Plotted and penciled by **Steve Ditko**, scripted by **Roger Stern**, and inked by **Jackson Guice**. 32 pages. 75¢.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #63 — A rabid computer virus has taken over **Box's** armor! Can **Alpha Flight's Madison Jeffries** destroy his own armor before it seizes control of the U.S. Air Force? "Technomancer" is written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **Hugh Haynes**, and inked by **Donald Hudson** and **Mike Gustovich**. Direct Sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

Titles Shipping June 21
On Sale July 12

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #216 — Re-presenting from THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #174: The terrorist **Hitman** has kidnaped **J. Jonah Jameson**! **Jonah's** only hope for rescue comes from **Spider-Man** and the **Punisher**. But to jolly **Jonah**, that alternative might be worse than being kidnaped in the first place! "The Hitman's Back In Town" is written by **Lein Wein**, penciled by **Ross Andru**, and inked by **Jim Mooney** and **Tony DeZuniga**. Plus: **Duktor Doom** needs **Spider-Ham's** *help?* Wait'll you see the wild reason why in Part 1 of this two-part saga. "The Stamp Of Doom" is written and penciled by **Fred Hembeck** and inked by **Joe Albelo**. New cover by **Mike Zeck**! 75¢.

SUPER-VILLAIN™ CHECKLIST

Absorbing Man — THE INCREDIBLE HULK #348
Ammo — DAREDEVIL #259
A.I.M. — NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. #4
Argus — MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #s 4 and 5
Beyonder — FANTASTIC FOUR #319
Bullet — DAREDEVIL #259
Bushwacker — DAREDEVIL #259
Chameleon — THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #306
Fear Worm — MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #4
Freedom Force — CAPTAIN AMERICA #346
Galactus — SILVER SURFER #16 and SILVER SURFER Hardcover
The High Evolutionary — THE UNCANNY X-MEN ANNUAL #12, THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #4 and THE WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #3
Humbug — THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #306
Hydra — NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. #4
Kang: THE AVENGERS #296
Madame Hydra — NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. #4
Mayhem — STRANGE TALES #19
Mephisto — SILVER SURFER Hardcover
Mr. Jip — STRANGE TALES #19
Mystique — MARVEL FANFARE #40
Nebula — THE AVENGERS #296
Night — STRANGE TALES #19
Razor Fist — MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #s 4 and 5
Resistants — CAPTAIN AMERICA #346
Set and his Legions — THOR #398
Spyder and the Webb — THE NEW MUTANTS #66
S'ym — X-TERMINATORS #1
The Teacher — WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #43
Technoman — ALPHA FLIGHT #63
Typhoid Mary — DAREDEVIL #259
Warwolves — EXCALIBUR #1
Wild Boys — DAREDEVIL #259

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #67 — Get the inside dope on WOLVERINE, INCAL, the SUB-MARINER Limited Series, THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL, the PUNISHER Graphic Novel, and the WILLOW Graphic Novel! All this plus **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck's** Page, the Mutant Report, Newswatch, and all the other features you know and love! Direct sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #348 — You'd think having the **Hulk** protecting your casino would take care of just about any problem, wouldn't you? Well, not when the awesome **Absorbing Man** comes calling! "Job Security" is written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Jeff Purves**, and inked by **Mike Gustovich**. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL** #4 — **Peter Parker** went to Miami expecting to do a run-of-the-mill signing for his new book. But when the **High Evolutionary** strikes, **Spidey** must join forces with the misshapen **Man-Thing** and Miami's newest super hero, **Poison**, to protect not only the universe but all of the alternate universes as well! "Sweet Poison" is written by **Steve Gerber** and drawn by **Cindy Martin**. 64 pages. $1.75.

☐ **THE FLINTSTONE KIDS** #8 — Figuring that little **Wilma** will love a young man in uniform, **Freddy** joins the Boy Scouts. But **Freddy** might just be the one thing the Scouts *aren't* prepared for! "Scouting Party" is written by **Tony Franco**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #296 — The **Avengers** are betrayed by **Dr. Druid** in this 25th anniversary spectacular! And wait'll you see the shocking reason why! "Not with a Bang but with a Whimper" is written by **Walt Simonson**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #211 — **Conan** would have a tough enough time crossing the Kothian Escarpment under the best of circumstances. But hampered by a lovestruck harem girl, it might prove to be too much for even **Conan** to bear! "Storm!" is written by **James C. Owsley**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala**. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #78 — The aftermath of the assault on Cobra Island threatens to destroy **G.I. Joe**! The **Joes** must somehow bust their leader **Hawk** out of a high-security "hospital" crawling with heavily armed federal agents. But if they do, the vindictive **Senator Hegel** and **General Malthus** will have even more ammunition to discredit the **Joes**! Written by **Larry Hama** and penciled by **Ron Wagner**. Biweekly. $1.00.

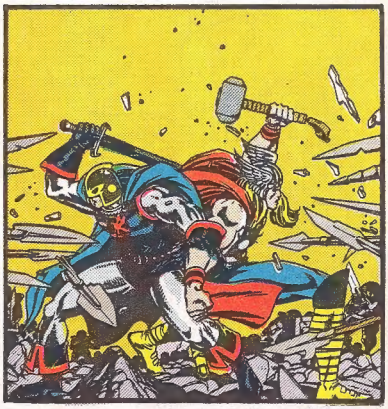
☐ **THE PUNISHER** #12 — When a megalomaniacal, kill-crazy cult leader runs his cult from inside a prison cell, it's up to the **Punisher** to stop him . . . and that means breaking *into* the prison to do it! "The Castle Technique" is written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. $1.00.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #16 — You'd think that after he came out on top of the battle with **the Elders of the Universe**, everyone would leave **Galactus** alone. But this time the **Silver Surfer** discovers that **Galactus** is in *real* trouble. And the only people who can help the **Surfer** save his former master are **Reed** and **Sue Richards — Mr. Fantastic** and the **Invisible Woman**! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE** #40 — What would you do if you were questioning your faith and suddenly met an angel? That's what happens to an elderly woman when she meets up with **Warren Worthington III**, X-FACTOR's high-flying **Angel**! Written by **Ann Nocenti** and illustrated by **David Mazzucchelli**. Also: **Storm** and **Mystique** meet for a no-holds-barred . . . conversation! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Craig Hamilton**, and inked by **Rick Bryant**. Direct Sales only. 32 pages. Hudson paper. $1.95.

new universe™

☐ **JUSTICE** #24 — A paranormal citizen has returned to his home town, only to find a welcome that's less than friendly. Which side will **Justice** support? You'll be surprised — and you'll be even more surprised at what **Justice** does when he reaches that decision! Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Lee Weeks**, and inked by **Mike Gustovich**. 32 pages. Mando offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.



☐ **X-TERMINATORS Limited Series** #1 — The kids from X-FACTOR find themselves out on their own against the demon **S'ym** who wants to use **Leech** and **Artie** as human sacrifices! If the rest of the kids can't save them in time, the inhuman ritual could bring about . . . the Inferno! "Invasion of the Baby Snatchers" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. $1.00.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #236 — The **X-Men** travel to Genosha, a place where mutants are made, not born! But considering that all of the work in Genosha is done by mutant slaves, can the **X-Men** escape enslavement themselves? "Green and Pleacant Land" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Rick Leonardi**, and inked by **P. Craig Russell**. Biweekly. $1.00.

☐ **DR. ZERO** #3 — A mad professor has an explosive that can destroy the world! It's up to **Dr. Zero** to stop him — assuming he can make his way through the Arctic wasteland surrounding the bomb! "Starlight, Starbright" is written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark**, penciled by **Denys Cowan**, and inked by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. An Epic Comic. Direct Sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

Titles Shipping June 28
On Sale July 19

☐ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** #319 — The **FF** continues its quest to unravel the secrets of the Negative Zone and the Beyonder in a double-sized story that's a real *shocker!* Are the secrets the **FF** discover secrets mortals were meant to know? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. $1.50.

☐ **IRON MAN** #235 — There's a new sculptor taking the West Coast by storm. But his statues mask a deadly secret! Can **Iron Man** uncover it in time? "Epitaph in Grey" is written by **David Michelinie** and **Bob Layton**, penciled by **Jackson Guice**, and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #396 — The thunder god's chances look pretty slim when he, the **Black Knight**, and **Hogun the Grim** face the rampaging hordes of **Set**, the Serpent God of Death. But they look nonexistent once **Balder** drains **Thor** of his power! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #307 — Chicago! **Spider-Man** versus the **Chameleon!** And **Mary Jane** — kidnaped! What more do you need to know? Written by **David Michelinie** and illustrated by **Todd McFarlane**. Biweekly. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #5 — Three gripping serials and one titanic solo tale in Marvel's premere biweekly comic!

WOLVERINE Part 5 — **Wolverine** vs. **Razor Fist** — the bloody aftermath! "The Rescue" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Klaus Janson**.

MAN-THING part 5 — A Satanic cult has a new weapon to destroy their enemies — the **Man-Thing**! "God and Country" is written by **Steve Gerber** and illustrated by **Tom Sutton**.

SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU Part 5 — **Shang-Chi** searches for **Leiko Wu**! And the crime-lord, **Argus**, prepares a trap that will finally eliminate **Shang-Chi**! Written by **Doug Moench**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Dave Cockrum**.

DAREDEVIL — Complete in this issue! A young boy is being stalked — and only **Matt Murdoch** can help him! "You See It When You Believe It" is written by **Terry Kavanagh**, penciled by **Dwayne Turner**, and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **ALF ANNUAL** #1 — **ALF** wreaks hayoc from coast to coast as he accompanies the **Tanners** on their vacation trip across the country! America may never be the same after experiencing "Cross-Country ALF!" Written by **Michael Gallagher** and drawn by **Dave Manak**. A Star Comic. 64 pages. $1.75.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL** #3 — The **Wacos** split up for a two-pronged assault on the **High Evolutionary**! **Hawkeye**, **Wonder Man**, the **Vision**, and the **Scarlet Witch** may have experience, and **Mockingbird**, **Moon Knight**, and **Tigra** may be relentless and vicious, but can either team stand against the **Evolutionary's** incredible power? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 64 pages. $1.75.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #17 — Re-presenting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #10, "Conan the Conqueror!" **King Conan** leads a desperate army in a last-chance attempt to wrest his kingdom of Aquilonia from the undead sorcerer, **Xaltotun**! Written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by the **Tribe**. Cover by **Boris Vallejo**. A Marvel black and white magazine. For Mature Readers. $2.00.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS** #8 — From THE AVENGERS #s 146–180, the definitive reference series of one of Marvel's greatest super-groups! Complete story synopses, full-page color cover reproductions, and complete story and art credits. Among the many highlights are: **Moondragon** joins the **Avengers**, the debut of **Wonder Man** as an **Avenger**, the **Guardians of the Galaxy**, the **Squadron Supreme**, the **Serpent Society** — and more! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. 48 pages. A Marvel Graphic Album. Direct Sales only. $2.95.

☐ **THE SILVER SURFER** Hardcover — Here it comes! A 64-page, dazzingly beautiful hardcover edition featuring a brand new adventure by the team who brought you THE SILVER SURFER back in the '60's!

It's the **Surfer** vs. **Mephisto**! **Mephisto** vs. **Galactus**! And it looks like the **Silver Surfer** will finally surrender his soul to **Mephisto**!

Each page of story a full-page illustration! Plotted and illustrated by **John Buscema** and scripted by **Stan Lee**! $14.95.

☐ **G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS** #2 — The **Dreadnoks** kidnap the leader of the European **Joes**' daughter! But the **Joes**' rescue mission ends in tragedy! "Death or Glory" is written by **Simon Furman**, penciled by **Bryan Hitch**, and inked by **Cam Smith**.

Plus: In **G.I. Joe** vs. **The Transformers** Part 2, the **Joes** investigate the mysterious death of an archaeologist team unearthing Roman ruins and find . . . **Megatron**! "Ancient Relics" is written by **Simon Furman**, penciled by **Geoff Senior**, and inked by **Dave Harwood**. Cover by **Geoff Senior**. 25 pages. $1.25.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #26 — Re-presenting from X-MEN #120: **Alpha Flight** vs. the **X-Men**! "Wanted: Wolverine ! Dead or Alive!" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Plus: an all-new back-up feature written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. $1.00.

☐ **DRAGON'S TEETH** #2 — If you thought the Australia of *Mad Max* was savage, wait'll you see the England of DRAGON'S TEETH! In a post-apocalyptic Liverpool, the **Dragon's Teeth** team must ferret out and destroy a murderous gang that even the paramilitary police fear — **the Evil Dead**! "Dead Reckoning" is written by **Simon Furman** and illustrated by **Geoff Senior**. Plus: enjoy a taste of wacky British wit with "The Reverend P. Gunn" written by **John Carnell** and illustrated by **Andy Lanning**. 32 pages. Mando offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #143 — The **Punisher** isn't quite himself. In fact, his mind is being controlled by the **Persuader**! **Spider-Man** starts out trying to stop the **Punisher** from killing two Dallas crime lords, and then discovers that the **Persuader** has marked him as the **Punisher's** next victim! Written by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #45 — Meet Hollywood's newest and hottest star, the **Decepticon**, **Skullgrin**! But the insanely jealous **Circuit Breaker** plans to short circuit **Skullgrin's** career before it can electrify the screen. And what this means for you is a cover to cover blockbuster called "Monstercon from Mars!" Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. $1.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #33 — As the **Angel** tracks down the **Right**, the deadline for the Mutant Registration Act is drawing nearer! How will the Act affect **X-Factor's** lives? And once Inferno strikes, will they live long enough to care? "A Matter of Conscience" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walt Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. $1.00.

☐ **ALIEN LEGION** #6 — The ruthless **Jugger Grimrod** — given his own command to lead? Is he ready for such responsibility? And just as important, does he even want it? "Xenos" is written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, and inked by **Mark Farmer**. An Epic Comic. Direct Sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER** #1 — Fresh from their stint in STRANGE TALES, **Cloak** and **Dagger** leap back into the pages of their very own title! And here to welcome them back — none other than **X-Factor**! "Dark Dagger" is written by **Terry Austin** and drawn by **Dan Lawliss**. Direct sales only. $1.25.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #23 — As we near the Christmas Truce of 1967, a new recruit learns that spending the holidays far from home can make for a pretty "Blue Christmas!" Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. Direct sales only. $1.25.

☐ **G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE** #12 — Re-presenting from **G.I. JOE** #s 32, 33, and 34, "The Mountain," and "Celebration!" written, by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**, and "Shakedown" written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Rod Whigham**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. A Marvel Digest. $1.50.

NEWSWATCH

James DiGiovanna and Sara Tuchinsky

INSIGHTFUL ITEMS OF *IMPORT*-ANCE AND INCONSEQUENTIAL INFORMATION OF INNER-WORKINGS

ITEM: For quite a while now, our friends in England at Marvel U.K. have been producing their own adventures of **G.I. Joe**, called ACTION FORCE. Starting in June, fans of G.I. JOE on this side of the Atlantic will be able to get in on the adventures when G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS hits the stands. It'll cost $1.25 and is filled with the cover to cover action you've come to expect in G.I. JOE and G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS. And, hey, while you're checking out G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS, be sure to take a look at . . .

ITEM: DRAGON'S TEETH! Also from Marvel U.K., it's one of the wildest — and grittiest — sagas you'll ever see! It's set in a post-apocalyptic Earth that's not a nice place to live, but is a great place to die. **Dragon's Teeth** is a brutal, gladiator-style game. Only now someone is playing that game for keeps!

ITEM: Just in case you thought we were finished with our all-new editorial lineup last issue, here we go again!

This time we say hi to two new assistant editors and congratulations to a new managing editor!

Our new Managing Editor Special Projects is **Gregory Wright** who will be the ramrod on the HERCULES Graphic Novel, the IRON MAN 2020 Graphic Novel, THE BEST OF MARVEL COMICS Vol. 2, THE MARVEL UNIVERSE UPDATE, the MACHINE MAN Trade Paperback, and several special projects so special we can't talk about them yet. Gregory was Executive Editor **Mark Gruenwald's** assistant editor and will continue to assist Mark on THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, THE AVENGERS, SOLO AVENGERS, NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. Limited Series, THE BLACK PANTHER Limited Series, and the NICK FURY AND WOLVERINE Graphic Novel. And as if that weren't enough, Gregory still finds time to do the coloring for us on MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE! Congratulations, Gregory!

Dragon, Mercy, Steel, Digit and Scavenger of DRAGON'S TEETH.

Our new assistant editors are **Sara Tuchinsky** and **James DiGiovanna**. Sara is Gregory Wright's new assistant and will also be in charge of our submissions department. Sara hails from East Lansing, Michigan, and was a member of our intern program. Sara says that her favorite comics are ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN, DAREDEVIL, and CAPTAIN AMERICA. And her non-comic activities include kayaking, European history, and cooking the world's best chocolate chip cookies.

James DiGiovanna, a graduate of Wesleyan University, left a budding academic career to be editor **Bobbie Chase's** assistant on G.I. JOE, G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS, THE NTH MAN, STEELTOWN ROCKERS, and THE INCREDIBLE HULK. James tells us that his favorite comics are DAREDEVIL and THE INCREDIBLE HULK. When James is not in the Bullpen, he enjoys philosophy and theory, art, performing arts, and collage. In fact, he told us, "I have this great G.I. JOE collage which I plan to bring in and put on the wall." Sounds good to us, James. Congratulations to you and Sara.

THE TOP TEN

Have we got a Marvel-ous list of the ten best-selling titles in the Direct Sales market for you this month! It's compiled by our Vice-President/Direct Sales **Carol Kalish** and it's for the month of **February**. So, with pardonable pride we present our Top Ten:

1 — **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #230
2 — **X-FACTOR** #29
3 — **THE NEW MUTANTS** #64
4 — **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #301
5 — **THE PUNISHER** #9
6 — **SILVER SURFER** #12
7 — **CLASSIC X-MEN** #22
8 — **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #39
9 — **IRON MAN** #231
10 — **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #139

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

When the folks here at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE requested a "strange" quiz for this month, all sorts of things sprang to mind — an examination of **Irving Forbush's** life story, a few questions on indicia trivia, a snatch of the Spanish Inquisition (which nobody would have expected). But of course, there's strange and then there's *strange*.

What we do have here, luckily, are twenty questions on some of Marvel's strange heroes — particularly the heroes of STRANGE TALES. Throughout its long history, that book has played host to many an illustrious character — and a few flat-out bizarre ones, as well! Many of them, such as **Dr. Strange**, **Cloak** and **Dagger**, and **Warlock**, have graduated to their own title — and for the ones who haven't, like **Brother Voodoo**, there's always been the special sort of fame afforded by **Fred Hembeck**!

The questions deal first with recent events in the Marvel Universe, and gradually stretch backward in time — nearly as far back in time, this month, as Marvel trivia can extend! So tackle the questions, check the answers on page 32, and you'll be set to size up just how strange *you* are! After all, how many people have facts like these at their fingertips?

—Brian Nelson

1. What Biblical quote has often opened the episodes of Cloak and Dagger? (Special La Espirita Award if you can remember the chapter and verse!)

2. Which eye did Dr. Strange recently lose — and is this part of a plan to make him resemble his old co-star, **Nick Fury**?

3. Which locale was NOT visited by Cloak and Dagger in their globe-hopping quest to destroy the world's drug trade: Libya, Latveria, Marseilles, or Bethlehem?

4. Which book has NOT hosted the redoubtable Brother Voodoo: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE; MARVEL CHILLERS; MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE; or MOON KNIGHT?

5. Who recently mended Dr. Strange's shredded Cloak of Levitation?

6. As previewed in a coming attractions notice, what STRANGE TALES supporting character was nearly **Vendetta** instead of the name we all know and love?

7. Who are **Clea's** parents?

8. In what series did Cloak and Dagger make their dazzling debut?

9. Who trained **Jericho Drumm** in the mystic arts of voodoo?

10. **Stephen Strange** once battled a warthog-headed doppelganger of himself — by what name was this foe called? (Think *strange* . . .)

11. Which STRANGE TALES headliner lasted a mere three issues before being consigned to a limbo that was only ended with a quick denouement in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE?

12. One of the first victims of Warlock's soul gem was what slaveship captain — who would later be on the scene when Warlock himself entered the world of his soul gem?

13. This Dr. Strange enemy used science against sorcery — and was instrumental in the formation of the **Defenders**! Who was he?

14. During his time on Counter-Earth, Warlock was "crucified" by the **Man-Beast**, acting in his guise as what President of the United States?

15. How did Dr. Strange look different from the Doc we'd recognize, for a brief period in 1969-70?

16. Who was responsible for the big New York blackout of the early 1960s, as tracked down by Nick Fury — and who was REALLY responsible?

17. Which three-faced cosmic judge first appeared in Doc's initial STRANGE TALES run?

18. In the premiere S.H.I.E.L.D. serial, **Tony Stark** (not **Iron Man**) disarmed **Hydra's** Betatron Bomb, employing what fantastic invention?

19. Which came first: the debut of Dr. Strange in STRANGE TALES, the debut of the **Human Torch** in STRANGE TALES, or the first issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN?

20. In what year was the very first issue of STRANGE TALES published?

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 3 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 7

X-TERMINATORS STOKE INFERNO

Last year the ranks of Marvel's mutants were devastated by The Fall Of The Mutants — the cross-over saga which finally, and bloodily, resolved the anti-mutant hysteria. Coming this year there's a cross-over saga which finds all mutants on Earth facing a new threat that, in some ways, is even greater — it's INFERNO! Inferno is the all-out quest by the demons of Limbo, led by S'ym, to conquer Earth and enslave not just mankind, but mutantkind as well. And it all begins in THE X-TERMINATORS, the four-issue monthly Limited Series on sale in June. The X-Terminators are Firefist, Skids, Boom Boom, Rictor, Artie, and Leech who are known to mutant watchers as X-Factor's proteges.

As the story opens, the Mutant Registration Act has been signed into law. While many mutants reluctantly act in accordance with the government's demand that all homo-superiors register themselves and their abilities, one mutant deliberately makes a political statement by refusing to comply with the Mutant Registration Act.

Rusty Collins, long identified as the leader of the children under X-Factor's tutelage, publicly turns himself over to the authorities as a protest against what he considers to be a violation of every mutant's civil rights. Once he makes his identity known, however, the military manages to skirt the bigger issue by incarcerating the young mutant for the near-incineration of an innocent bystander. (It happened during the first manifestation of his Firefist power back in X-FACTOR #1.)

The adult members of X-Factor decide it would be best if their young wards were separated and educated in schools where they could develop as normal teenagers, free from the spotlight of mutant paranoia. As the children reluctantly part ways, X-Factor is unaware that they have just sealed the collective fates of their young charges.

These events coincide with the first sparks of the INFERNO which highlights an epic war raged over the leadership of Limbo.

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
INVASION OF THE BABY-SNATCHERS
WHO DARES TO SUMMON THE DREAD N'ASTIRH AND HIS M'ASTERS FROM THE STYGIAN DEPTHS OF LIMBO?
WHAT IS THIS BABBLE OF SWORDS AND INTER DIMENSIONAL JOURNEYS?
WRITER LOUISE SIMONSON
PENCILLER JON BOGDANOVE
INKER AL WILLIAMSON
LETTERER JOE ROSEN
COLOR ST JOHN WILLIAMSON
© 1988 BOB HARRAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF TOM DEFALCO

S'ym, would-be Demonlord and [illegible] of Dyana's title as undisputed ruler of Limbo, is planning to shift that fiery dimension into alignment with Earth! Essentially, the demons want to rule the planet, not bothering to discriminate between demons and mutants as they impart countless horrors on the inhabitants of Earth.

In an effort to accomplish this, S'ym needs one of his most ruthlessly powerful arch-demons to the about-to-be conquered planet. While S'ym trusts no one in his dark dimension of debauchery, N'Astirh is the most logical choice because of the latter demon's penchant for state-of-the-art Earth science. As the series' writer [illegible] explains, "N'Astirh will be Limbo's first high-tech demon."

Petitioned to bring S'ym the souls of "thirteen infant children of purity and power," N'Astirh and his small army of demons use an abandoned mausoleum at a Queens' cemetery as their headquarters. When N'Astirh orders the demon, Crotus, to begin the task at hand, his deceitfully cretinous underling [illegible] a description of an Earth infant.

"They're horribly ugly creatures, even by human standards," it is explained. "They're often bald, with huge eyes set atop small bodies."

Diligently searching the planet for the requisite young mutant sacrifices, Crotus stumbles across two young mutants that resemble [illegible] description. Artie and Leech! Naturally Artie and Leech are reluctant to be sacrificed. Unfortunately, the X-Terminators discover this, in a cruel twist of fate, their assignment is to stop S'ym and his minions, actually *starts* Inferno!

"They're horribly ugly creatures, even by human standards"

The two youngest X-people have been attending a private school in New Hampshire for the learning disabled. In the short time they've been there, the two befriended another young boy named Takeshi Hayashi, or "Taki" for short. The wheelchair-bound oriental was placed at the school after his ex-[illegible] wealthy parents were killed in the same accident that crippled him. Because Artie and Leech were at the school to learn to talk, while the learning disorder of dyslexia makes it difficult for the genius-level intellect of Taki to read, a fast friendship was formed between the three mutants.

Although Taki, known as Whiz Kid, has the mutant ability to transmutate his wheelchair into virtually anything (as well as use the [illegible] that failed to help him walk again but *do* allow him to "talk" to computers), even he isn't powerful enough to prevent Crotus from kidnaping Artie and Leech.

When they learn that two of their own are threatened with becoming mutant sacrifices, Rictor, Skids and Boom Boom team up with Whiz Kid to bust Firefist out of military prison, thereby beginning their first official adventure as Marvel's newest group of mutants . . . the X-Terminators!

On hand to handle the creative task of finally giving the children their own costumes, are the series' [illegible] Jon Bogdanove and [illegible] Williamson. (In keeping with the ragtag informality of the group, the kids are forced to steal their "costumes" from a boutique [illegible] necessitates a change of clothing.) Faced with the task of rendering the [illegible] techno-organic disease that transformed most of its terrain and many of its inhabitants into [illegible] lockesque landscapes and entities, Jon and Al are sure to raise eyebrows with fans everywhere.

Look for the first issue to be released this month as the first adventures of the X-Terminators stokes the fire of The Inferno!

— Scott Lobdell

EXCALIBUR™

MONTHLY SERIES STARTS

One would think with the seeming death of the X-Men that mutants in general, and Shadowcat, Nightcrawler, and Phoenix in particular, would consider hanging up their costumes and let the world at large fend for itself. Instead, these three former X-Men have become half of a new team of mutants determined to preserve the dream of a day when humankind and mutantdom can live in peaceful coexistence, as both races strive to achieve their destiny. That is, if they don't slip on a cosmic banana peel along the way!

Kitty, Kurt, and Rachel, along with Captain Britain, his girlfriend Meggan, and the soon to be introduced Widget, are about to begin their most offbeat adventures of all in the first issue of their new continuing monthly series, EXCALIBUR!

After their debut as a team in their own 48-page Graphic Album, the members of Excalibur are ready for anything. Which is just as well, because anything is exactly what does happen with each installment of this series that's been officially subtitled "The Cosmic Comedy Caper." (All brought to you by EXCALIBUR's original creative chroniclers Chris Claremont, Alan Davis, and Paul Neary.)

Although the intent is to give this series a lighter touch than the often grim, somber, grittier underpinnings of their parent book, THE X-MEN, this team of England-based mutants is going to have to grab their yuks on the run as their first issue introduces American audiences to Captain Britain's older brother, and the nefarious Vixen! You would think that with foes such as the Warwolves, Gatecrasher and the Technet (whose members include Joyboy, Waxworks, Yap, Thug, Brawler, Ringtoss, China Doll, Scatterbrain, Bodybag and quite possibly cameos by Cubby and Annette), Arcade and the Crazy Gang, Marvel's merriest mutants would have their hands full. But Excalibur is also going to have to gear up for a no-holds barred battle against none other than that reticent ravager of worlds, the ravenous Galactus. While most of the names above don't sound familiar, don't worry. Although these

Joining this roller coaster rollick is the team's newest member, Widget! Though his origin is still shrouded in mystery (he'll appear in the first issue but won't make his teammates aware of his presence until issue #6), he's been billed as a character who will add new dimensions to the expression, "you are what you eat"!

Here's the chance for all the X-heads who weren't around for the debut of THE X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, and X-FACTOR, to get in on the action with the very first issue of another distinctly different team book. But hop aboard quickly, EXCALIBUR is a fast-paced, frolicking flight into fantasy and fun. From Stonehenge to Sirius, from elsewhere to elsewhen and back again, EXCALIBUR is going to do wonders for the mutant paranoia problem in the world today.

—Scott Lobdell

popular characters were originally created in the pages of England's own CAPTAIN BRITAIN Weekly, EXCALIBUR editor Terry Kavanagh promises that each villain will be formally and properly introduced in this new series.

Naturally, while hijinx and ha ha's abound, the stars of EXCALIBUR aren't going to be without their share of angst. Whereas other groups of mutants try to cope with being on the receiving end of mutant paranoia or dealing with the ramifications of their particular powers, one of the first "major crises" Excalibur will deal with is housing. When the innocent Meggan opens up the doors of Captain Britain's lighthouse home to her new teammates, this paraphysical elemental with only a limited insight into such concepts as "privacy" and "a man's home being his castle," isn't prepared for her boyfriend's anger over her generous offer.

While tempers flare and property values plummet, Nightcrawler fans can finally expect to learn his anxiously-awaited origin. For everyone who has ever wondered about the connection between Kurt and the mysterious Mystique of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, keep your yellow glowing eyes open for the untold story in the pages of EXCALIBUR. Meanwhile Shadowcat will be forced to deal with her hyperephemeral condition. How she copes with being part-wraith, part-fifteen year old girl is one of the more serious plotlines that fans can look forward to.

CLOAK AND DAGGER®

After over a year and a half of being a co-feature in STRANGE TALES, Cloak and Dagger are ready to go it solo once again in their own title. The master of darkness and mistress of light originally appeared in PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64, and in many subsequent issues of that book. Later, they debuted in their own successful Limited Series, which eventually paved the way for a regular, bi-monthly series. Finally, Cloak and Dagger were drafted to share the spotlight with Doctor Strange in the recent revival of STRANGE TALES.

"Monthly books generally sell better than bi-monthly books because the characters get better exposure," said editor Carl Potts. "So we launched the idea to combine Cloak and Dagger with Doctor Strange into one book to give the characters monthly exposure. Now that they've gotten that exposure, I hope that people who were drawn to STRANGE TALES because of Doctor Strange have gained enough interest in Cloak and Dagger to warrant their new bi-monthly series."

Terry Austin, known mostly for his inking, will continue to write the adventures of the mismatched duo. "Terry Austin had always had a great deal of writing ability ever since I met him 12 years ago," Carl said. "He has a good eye for what works and what doesn't work — he'd make a great editor. Years ago when we worked on THE LAST OF THE DRAGONS (which will soon be reprinted as an Epic Graphic Novel), I bounced most of my plot ideas off Terry who would always come up with good insights and ideas. So he's always had an aptitude for writing."

Terry had been inking and giving plot insights on CLOAK AND DAGGER for quite a while. When Carl decided that he wanted to change the direction of the storyline, he called Terry and told him to put his money where his mouth is. "I had written POWER PACK #21 for Carl," Terry said. "I was curious to see how it was done on a regular basis. So I talked to other writers like Walt and Louise Simonson, Al Milgrom, and Carl and they told me that one idea sparks another; they're self-generating."

"We recently learned that Cloak and Dagger are mutants . . ."

Terry says that he enjoyed the short-story format of STRANGE TALES because the pressure didn't fall squarely upon his shoulders to make the book interesting for everyone. "If I wrote a silly story, the Doctor Strange story would hopefully balance it out. Now I'm on my own and it's kind of scary."

The first issue of the new CLOAK AND DAGGER will feature a battle between Dagger and X-Factor while Cloak is trapped elsewhere.

(Continued on page 18)

STAN'S SOAPBOX

There's good news and bad news!

Let's start with the bad news.

The bad news is that I forgot some of the good news.

But the good news is that we'll never know what it is I forgot so we'll never miss it!

Hey, you've gotta forgive me. I'm writing these imperishable words in the hot sun, out on my terrace, on my laptop computer — and I think the heat's getting to me!

And, speaking of laptop computers, I just had a staggering thought! I'll bet I'm the only lunatic writer who actually keeps his laptop computer on his lap while he types! (If **Stim-Jim Salicrup**'s reading this, how about a raise so I can buy a table?) (Aw, I'm only kidding, gang. I've got a table — somewhere. It's just that it's so buried under my pinup pictures of **Tom DeFalco** that I can never find it! Sorry, Tommy. Like I said — blame it on the hot sun!)

But, back to the good news . . .

You all know by now that our special collectors' editions of the Marvel Masterworks Series sold out during the last Christmas season. Apparently they were considered the world's greatest gift ideas for and by Marvel fans. And since the hallowed horde of maniacal Marvelites can be numbered in the millions, it turned out we didn't print nearly enough copies to satisfy the demand. So, the good news is . . .

Because we can't bear the thought of so many heart-broken culture lovers sleeping each night on tear-stained pillows, we'll be going back to press with thousands more of those coveted editions again this winter! We won't rest till every True Believer who wants a copy has had a chance to glom onto one. In fact, we figure we're performing such a public service that we oughta be tax-exempt!

But now some of the bad news!

Those of you who won't be able to get to Georgia on June 25th this summer will be deprived of the once-in-a-lifetime thrill of meeting me at the famous Atlanta Fantasy Fair. But don't feel too bad about it, gang. You'll probably see the whole thing on the television news that night. Such a momentous event will certainly preempt the more mundane items like war and pestilence and politics!

And here's some still worse news!

I wanted to tell you all not to dare miss the great new **Hulk** TV movie premiering on NBC May 15th. I was all set to hit you with the usual hysterical hype and hilarious hyperbole when I suddenly realized — this issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is scheduled to go on sale May 18th, three days AFTER the show will have aired! So, all I can now do is mention that I hope you saw it and enjoyed it. (You see, I'm writing this captivatin' column on March 9th, so I haven't yet seen the program and I'm hoping against hope that it'll be the smashing success it deserves to be.) In fact, you probably all know by now that it guest-starred **The Mighty Thor**. But what you may not know is — with just a little bit of luck, NBC may decide to give ol' Goldilocks his own series if they think the public digs him.

Of course, you know what I'm leading up to. If you'd like to see more of the mighty one, don't be bashful about dropping a note to NBC-TV and letting 'em know. On the other hand, if you don't want our favorite hammer-slinger to have his own show, forget it! Who asked you?

Dunno whether to call this next item good news or bad news! So I'll just play it cool and let you decide.

You may remember me mentioning a few Soapboxes ago that I'd be scripting a **John Buscema Silver Surfer** graphic novel and a **Jean (Moebius) Giraud** Silver Surfer comic book. Well, wouldja believe there's actually a third special Silver Surfer project coming up for me? It's getting so that I'm afraid to look in the mirror — I think I'm turning milky white!

Here's how the third one happened . . .

A few years ago the ever-popular **Keith Pollard** decided he wanted to draw a Silver Surfer graphic novel. All the other Bullpen script writers must have been busy or on vacation at the time, because they recklessly asked if I would write it. I had two major reasons for saying yes. One, I'm a humongous Keith Pollard fan. Two, I'm greedy. So everything was all set — or so I thought.

The days turned into weeks — the weeks turned to months — then the years drifted by — and still no word from the puzzling Mr. Pollard. Finally, I

received the first dozen or so pages he had drawn, and they were fantastic! I couldn't wait for the rest. But I had to wait. And wait. And wait. And I'm still waiting. But now, at last, Titanic Tom DeFalco just phoned to tell me that Keith was still alive and well and had actually promised to deliver all the remaining artwork to me in the next few weeks. That means, besides the regular Silver Surfer series, so rhapsodically written by **Sterling Steve Englehart**, the desperately waiting world will soon be subjected to a Buscema Silver Surfer, a Moebius Silver Surfer and a Pollard Silver Surfer, all savagely scripted by yours truly! I'd tell you more about it, but I have to run out and grab my surfboard before it gets restless and goes flying off!

You know how some writers always save the best for last? Well, that's the way I am, with just one small difference. I've saved the last for last!

Years ago — though it feels like a few centuries ago to me — when I was editor of Marvel, I used to write my Soapbox column on the Bullpen Page of all the mags. The columns I enjoyed writing the most contained all sorts of little philosophical gems which I'd so generously toss at Marveldom Assembled. Now, just for old time's sake, I'd like to do a paragraph or two like that, just so you can see the kind'a stuff your dad was reading when he was hooked on Marvel!

Let's talk about comic books. The other day I heard a mother say she's worried about her son reading comics because they may stifle his imagination. With all the pictures they contain, she's afraid little Johnny won't use his own brain and try to imagine what things look like — he'll simply see them and accept them — or so she thinks.

We got into a real deep discussion and I told her how I felt about the subject. First of all, no kid reads *only* comics. One of the beautiful things about comic books is that they actually encourage the reading habit. They teach a youngster to equate enjoyment with what's on the printed page. Comics have made proficient readers out of kids who would otherwise never have picked up a book.

And then I mentioned something that she, and perhaps you, hadn't thought of. Comic books aren't the only medium in which words and pictures are combined. What about the theater? Can you picture a parent saying, "I don't want my child seeing Hamlet on the stage because he won't use his imagination. I want him to merely read the play"? Or, "I don't want little Mary to see the Swan Lake ballet. I'd prefer her to just read the libretto!" How about "No kid of mine is going to see E.T. or Star Wars! I'll wait till they come out as novels!" Finally, would you applaud the parent who opines, "I never take my children to the opera. Seeing the performers will stifle their imagination!"

Well, the lady I was talking to thought about it for a minute or two, smiled and left. A few days later she sent us a subscription application!

I've discussed this subject with parents and educators in every part of the country and most of them agree. So I've finally reached the conclusion that we comic book makers aren't merely providing entertainment for the cognoscenti; we're educating the whole wide world!

But just because you now realize how beneficial comic books are, you must promise not to flaunt all this wonderment. When you appear in public carrying your latest treasured Marvel classic, do so humbly. Have compassion for those who still have not discovered the hidden treasures of the comic book world. Find it in your heart to be tolerant of all who have not yet been touched by the Marvel muse. Be patient with ones of little faith, and revel not in thine own superior state.

Okay, that's it! Now you can see why they dubbed me a publisher (whatever that is) and left the Bullpen Pages to others to write!

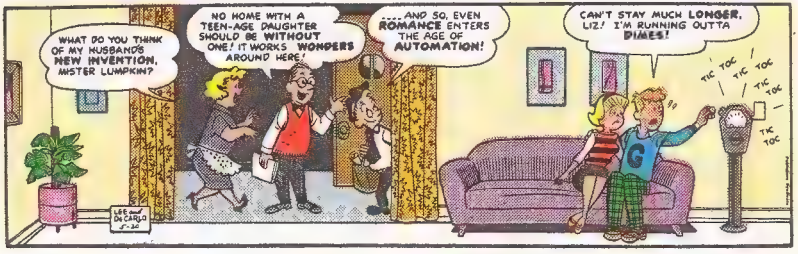
One final bit of bad news . . .

Unless **Wolverine** misses his appointment with his manicurist, chances are I'll be back with you again next ish! But not to worry — maybe I'll have thought of something meaningful to say by then! So, till next time, be good to each other and wherever you go, whatever you do, never tickle a tarantula — it may not know you're a Spideyphile!

Excelsior!

Stan

WILLIE LUMPKIN © 1988 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo


WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY HUSBAND'S NEW INVENTION, MISTER LUMPKIN?
NO HOME WITH A TEEN-AGE DAUGHTER SHOULD BE WITHOUT ONE! IT WORKS WONDERS AROUND HERE!
---AND SO, EVEN ROMANCE ENTERS THE AGE OF AUTOMATION!
CAN'T STAY MUCH LONGER, LIZ! I'M RUNNING OUTTA DIMES!
TIC TOC
TIC TOC
TIC TOC
TIC TOC
LEE and DeCARLO

FRED HEMBECK

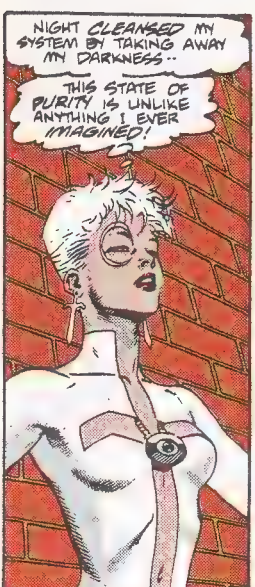
Sigh
WE'VE COME TO THE END OF AN ERA--
AGAIN.
--THEY'RE CLOSING DOWN Strange Tales.
FOR NOW.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU?
SURE. ANOTHER NUMBER ONE.
G!?*
GEE, DOC DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE REAL PUSSYCAT HE WAS WHEN WE STARTED OUT TOGETHER IN Strange Tales #1!~
EVERYONE GOES THROUGH CHANGES--ESPECIALLY THESE DAYS AT MARVEL. MY GOSH, HAVE YOU SEEN BEN GRIMM LATELY??...
DON'T WORRY, DOC--WE'RE BOTH GETTING OUR FULL-LENGTH BOOKS BACK.
LESSEE, COUNTING Strange Tales AND OUR VERY FIRST GRAPHIC NOVEL, THIS'LL BE OUR FIFTH #1--AND OUR THIRD "CLOAK AND DAGGER #1"--WOW!
UH UH.
"UH UH?" WHAT DO YOU MEAN "UH UH"?
THEY'RE CHANGING THE TITLE.
CHANGING THE TITLE? WHAT ARE THEY CHANGING THE TITLE TO?
WELL, I'M NOT SURE--I JUST KNOW THEY DIDN'T LISTEN TO MY SUGGESTION.
YOUR SUGGESTION? AND JUST WHAT WAS THAT?
&W, I DON'T WANNA TELL YOU--YOU'LL JUST GET MAD.
NO, I WON'T, I PROMISE--I'M JUST CURIOUS.
WELL...
C'MON--YOU GOTTA TELL ME!
OKAY.
MY SUGGESTION WAS "DAGGER AND CLOAK."
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
G!?*
WHAT HE SAID.
OOF!

(Continued from page 13)

We recently learned that Cloak and Dagger are mutants, which is the reason they did not die like the other children who had undergone the same drug-addiction experiments that gave them their powers. So the first issue will primarily be a battle of the mutants.

The battle ensues because Dagger is no longer in control of herself. It seems the more control Cloak has gained over his powers, the less control Dagger has over hers. Dagger has absorbed all the evil from the horde of villains that her foe, Night, has released. This act has a corrupting effect on Dagger. The only way to cure her is for Cloak to take her into his dark dimension where she may expel all that excess evil.

However, for all of you who picked up the recent CLOAK AND DAGGER Graphic Novel (still on sale), by writer Bill Mantlo (who created the Times Square vigilantes along with artist Ed Hannigan), penciler Larry Stroman and inker Al Williamson, there is an entity that dwells within Cloak's realm of darkness, called the Predator, who thrives on evil. Dagger must confront the Predator before she can expunge herself. Although she is purged by the time she emerges from Cloak's realm, Dagger does not remain unscathed. Through a series of events that Terry would not reveal, Dagger reenters our world of light without the power of sight. She has gone blind.



"She has gone blind."

"As a guy who makes his living drawing pictures, I try not to take my eyesight for granted," Terry said. "I wanted to explore this topic in CLOAK AND DAGGER just to show how precious sight is. I've done a lot of research at the American Federation for the Blind to determine the psychological and physical processes sighted people go through when they go blind.

"I thought it would be interesting to see how Dagger would cope with being blind. She has always had it kind of soft. Even the powers she obtained are based on light and goodness. Cloak has always had the rotten end of the deal. Now I'm going to reverse all that.

"Cloak feels good that Dagger now depends on him as much as he had been dependent on her. And anyone who knows Dagger also knows that she will not be pleasant as a blind person. As Tandy Bowen she was a dancer. As a super heroine she had to see her target in order to throw her light daggers. How will blindness change all that? She's not going to have any compensating factors like Daredevil has. As far as I'm concerned, this change is going to be permanent."

Meanwhile, what's going to happen to Cloak? Terry says that he wants to get away from the "super hero vs. drug dealer" aspect of the book for awhile. The second and third issues of the new series will gear more toward the science-fiction genre than the super hero vein. Cloak gets involved in an intergalactic game show as an innocent bystander when he gets taken off to outer space. The story will feature many established aliens from the Marvel Universe, as well as some new ones. There Cloak will also meet a being who was the previous keeper of the portal to the dark dimension. Terry wants to establish that there has always been one, and this story sets up a future confrontation between the two.

From science fiction we turn to romance when Cloak becomes involved with police detective Rusty Nails. Rusty discovers that only an empty coffin was buried at the funeral of her former partner, Brigid O'Reilly, the woman who later became Mayhem. She also discovers that all her clues lead her straight to Cloak and Dagger.

Terry also hints that Dagger may become romantically involved with a rogue villain in the near future.

Along with Mayhem, Mr. Jipp will also be returning to the pages of CLOAK AND DAGGER and will continue to be a thorn in their side. In addition, Terry will be introducing a villain called the Marked Man, a surviving Morlock from the Mutant Massacre. He has become paranoid from being hunted and hounded, so he uses his power to tattoo the guilty secrets of all those he believes to be his enemies on their foreheads.

Father Francis Delgado will be released from the insane asylum he was admitted to in the CLOAK AND DAGGER GRAPHIC NOVEL. Everyone will think he is cured, except for Cloak — who turns out to be right.

Dan Lawlis will continue as the penciler for the first several issues of the new series. When asked if Terry Austin would ever do any of the artwork on CLOAK AND DAGGER, Carl Potts replied, "I'd really like to see him write, pencil and ink a complete story some time." When Terry was told this he just laughed. —*Glenn Herdling*

ANN NOCENTI

past, present, and future

In the immortal words of Vice-President of Publishing Mike Hobson, "We're losing a daughter, but we're gaining a writer."

Ann Nocenti, longtime Editor of Marvel's line of mutant books — THE X-MEN, EXCALIBUR, THE NEW MUTANTS, CLASSIC X-MEN, and WOLVERINE, to name a few — is finally taking the plunge and going freelance. We in the Editorial Department will miss her, but we're looking forward to seeing more of her work as one of Marvel's top freelance writers. What follows is, in Ann's own words, a look at some of her projects past, present, and future. —*Bobbie Chase*

Before Marvel I worked mostly as a technical writer, doing odd jobs here and there. I was writing about food physiology, solar energy, other technical writing. I also ghost-wrote a horror novel — I was sort of flim-flamming it, doing a lot of check chasing. I did some film work on an interview show. But my background before that had been as a painter, etcher, jewelry maker — all the arts, in college.

I finally decided that I was always hungry, and that it was time to get a steady job. So, I answered an ad in the Village Voice — they didn't mention Marvel — but it was something about editorial and art, and it was vague, and so I thought it was the job for me!

"We're losing a daughter, but we're gaining a writer."

I called, and personnel told me that it was a comic book company, and they sounded embarrassed, but I thought it sounded great.

So, I started out as the assistant to Jim Shooter. As soon as I got here, and saw all the artwork lying around, and how beautiful it was, I knew this would be fun! I'd never heard of comics at all, and was completely naive about them. The idea of a printed medium with words and pictures together, as a linguistic unit that creates a 'sentence,' as a way of telling a story had never occurred to me. I was like those people who irritate me now — who think that comic books are mass-produced like a "Slurpee" glass - assembly line style.

I was only Jim's assistant for about six months. I was a *horrible* secretary — almost got him in trouble a few times, because I *hated* keeping records and filing.

But then, I got a job in the editorial department as Al Milgrom's assistant, working on THE INCREDIBLE HULK, THE THING, and ROM. That gave me the chance to jump around Editorial for a while,

working on a whole range of different titles. I went from Al, to Carl Potts, to Weezie (Louise Simonson), who had the mutant books at the time.

All the while I was editing, I was also writing. Denny O'Neil gave me my first short story for BIZARRE ADVENTURES, and then followed a SPIDER-WOMAN series.

EXPERIENCES AS EDITOR OF THE MUTANT BOOKS

The idea of super heroes as mutant outcasts appealed to me a lot, so I was glad to get these books to edit. They're all great, fun characters to work with. X-MEN attracts some of the best artists — Bill Sienkiewicz, John Romita Jr., Barry Windsor-Smith, Rick Leonardi — everybody who's worked on the books over the years — now Alan Davis and Marc Silvestri — it was never a problem getting good artists to work on them.

And as for Chris Claremont's writing, he has this amazing ability to empathize with characters so that you're under their skin, and with them through their problems. He also has an amazing ability to make any situation dramatic. You really *do* become concerned that Kitty's lost a shoelace! It becomes dramatic. It's Chris's personal forte. I've found it exciting to help come up with stories, and to shape their lives. We had our own little universe — our own empire. I'll miss the books, and working in the office in general — especially the contact with the writers and artists who have really become friends.

LONGSHOT:

Longshot was my first created character. He was an incredibly fun, lively character — a real sweetheart. Art Adams filled him with the same sort of energy I had envisioned. He's very special to me. The energy he was created with was "happy," as opposed to a lot of my darker stuff that's followed. Art and I are now reviving him for what will probably be a two year series — sort of an 'existential-man' concept, with Longshot wandering the planet and gathering friends. Mephisto will figure big in this series — the corrupt versus the incorruptible soul. Mephisto will be treated as the real devil — unfathomably evil, yet tragically, eternally, LONELY. And Longshot will meet just about every Marvel hero along the way. Art has a lot of fun ideas, things he wants to do — really dramatic, cinemagraphic stuff.

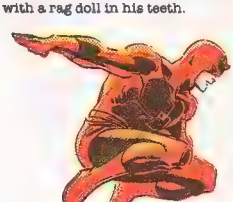
FUTURE PLANS:

Other than that, John Bolton and I are doing SOMEPLACE STRANGE, sort of a surrealistic chase/hunt for the Bogeyman. The characters involved a whole other world. It's going to be funny, light, adult/children's fantasy. *And* it's also really horrific.

We're also working on an extremely adult horror project. It'll be evil and disgusting. It's even giving us the creeps talking about it. Completely psychotic — the kind of thing you'll want to burn before you finish reading it. And then, of course, I have an INHUMANS Graphic Novel, with Brett Blevins and Al Williamson, which is due out this summer. Also, Klaus Janson and I are doing a four-issue Graphic Album with Wolverine and the Punisher, called 'Guns and Devils.' It's a paranoid, covert, insane piece of work, featuring a lot of short-fused eccentrics going off like grenades on each other. We also find out why the Punisher 'does what he does.'

DAREDEVIL:

I'm enjoying writing Daredevil. Daredevil is a wonderful character. He just stands there and he's in conflict, because he's a man who's found a loophole. He made a deathbed promise to his father not to fight, but the lawyer in him found a loophole for himself and created Daredevil as a way to keep that deathbed promise. There's that paradox, and the paradox of his lawyer self. He's a man who supposedly believes completely in the system, and yet as a vigilante he's a contradiction to the system. And again, some story lines have alluded to his christian beliefs, and yet he wears the devil suit. So from every angle he's a living paradox. It's not only dual identity; there're layers and layers of schizophrenia in this character. I'm about to take this hero and really sink my teeth into him, shake him up, like a dog with a rag doll in his teeth.



IN CLOSING:

It seems odd now to be stepping off a treadmill. If you've been going to a job every day for seven years, there's bound to be a sense of vertigo. But I have plenty to do, and I'm happy to be making the change. The job was challenging, but I feel that after seven years I've done it as well as I'm ever going to do it. It's not as challenging any more, so it's time to leave. So now I can go off and be a paranoid, lonely freelancer. I'll come up to the office, rattling a few coins in my cup, and beg to all the editors.

DOCTOR STRANGE®

SORCERER SUPREME

Way back in 1963, during the month of July, a certain Sorcerer Supreme made his debut in STRANGE TALES Vol. 1, No. 110. Created by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**, **Doctor Strange** began as a selfish neurosurgeon whose career was cut short by an automobile accident which left his hands crippled due to minor nerve damage. Determined to find a cure, Strange sought the assistance of the fabled **Ancient One**. The aged sorcerer told him that he would consider helping Strange once he proved himself worthy. Doctor Strange soon learned that the Ancient One's apprentice, **Baron Mordo**, was plotting to kill his mentor. Realizing the true nature of evil and the necessity to combat it, Stephen Strange helped foil Mordo's plot and became the Ancient One's new disciple and learned the secrets of magic.

A new career was launched and a mystic chapter in Marvel history began. Dr. Strange's saga would continue into his own solo title, DOCTOR STRANGE, and later in revivals of DOCTOR STRANGE and STRANGE TALES and as a member of THE DEFENDERS. Recently, in the new STRANGE TALES, Dr. Strange co-starred with the mutant duo, **Cloak** and **Dagger**.

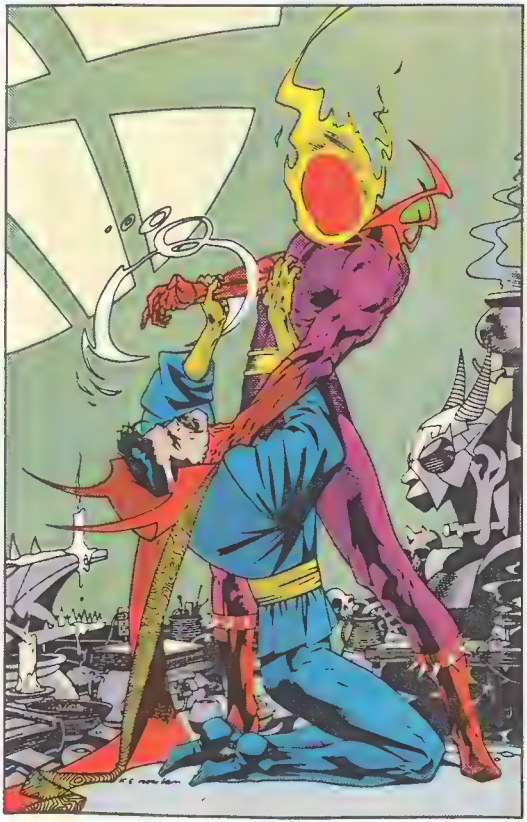
Now the Fates have been good to Doctor Strange, gracing him with his own title once again. "In STRANGE TALES we recently finished up a long-running storyline dealing with Doc's association with black magic," said editor **Carl Potts**. "So it's very convenient to start him up in his own book again."

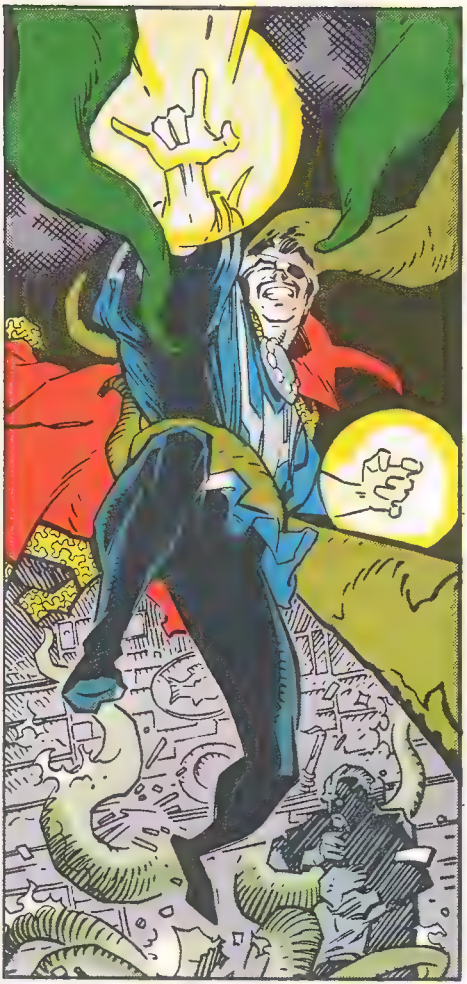
Doctor Strange's adventures will continue to be written by **Peter Gillis**, penciled by newcomer **Richard Case**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**.

Peter is very happy to be working with 22 pages again. "When I was working with 11 pages, I had to pare down the supporting cast as well as the subplots," he said. "Now I can bring back some of Doc's old friends and not-so-friends to find out what they've been up to during his long absence from Earth."

In the first issue we see Doctor Strange's funeral vis-a-vis videotape, which guest-stars practically all of the heroes in the Marvel Universe. They all believe he had fallen in battle with **the Beyonder**. The Sorcerer Supreme returns to his Sanctum Sanctorum to find it has been renamed as the Stephen Strange Memorial Metaphysical Institute.

"When Strange witnesses the effect of his 'death' on his friends, he begins to question whether or not he should return to them," Peter said. "He realizes that his friends are *consciously* devoted to him, but he can





see beyond the conscious level. He knows what dangers his mere presence has brought to those closest to him. After all, **Sarah** was attacked by **Dracula**, and **Urthona** turned Wong's face into pizza!"

So, since the rest of the world believes him dead, Doctor Strange adopts a secret identity. He becomes **Dr. Stephen Sanders**, a traveling lecturer on orientalism, meditation and the occult.

There will still be ramifications from the serial in STRANGE TALES that Doctor Strange will have to confront. "What I dealt with in STRANGE TALES was that Doc Strange had ceased to be human," Peter said. "He was the Sorcerer Supreme. What do you do with one of the most powerful beings in the universe? Simple. You strip him down!"

In STRANGE TALES, Peter tore Strange apart by introducing him to the hazards of black magic. Then he slowly put him back together again, making him less of a super hero and more of a magician. The new Doctor Strange will still be powerful, but he must keep his balance of white and black magic in check. He will heal, defend, and protect as he used to, but should he harm another being as he once did by imprisoning him in another dimension, or the like, he must pay a penance because it is black work. "Strange must work out his negative karma when he commits such deeds," Peter explained. "He must punish himself by taking his foe's pain and suffering, thereby diminishing his powers."

In the first issue of DOCTOR STRANGE, the dread **Dormammu** will return in a way that we've never seen before — within Strange's body! This development will begin a storyline which takes the doctor out of his body, placing him in various places on and off the Earth. Doctor Strange will meet alien sorcerers. "It's only logical that there should be powerful sorcerers in other places than the Earth," Peter asserted. "Urthona was an alien. Why should there by no **Skrull** magicians or **Kree** sorcerers? These are some of the topics I will be exploring."

Strange's out-of-body experience will also take him to Central Park and land him in the middle of the **Frog-Rat War** that **Walt Simonson** established during his tenure on THOR. **The Defenders** will also be returning in these pages with a new name. "They now call themselves **the Dragon Circle**," Peter said. "They are a modern-day sword and sorcery group composed of the **Valkyrie**, **Manslaughter**, **Interloper**, **Andromeda** and one new character. I will also be returning **Moondragon** and the **Gargoyle** to the team in an upcoming issue of SOLO AVENGERS." The members of the Dragon Circle all have a mystical bent to them, but they are not magicians like Strange. Their main purpose is to defeat **the Dragon of the Moon**, which has been plaguing the Earth since before the days of **King Arthur**. Peter hopes that they will generate enough interest to warrant their own series.

He also said that he has talked to **Chris Claremont** about doing a Doctor Strange/**Magik** crossover.

"I'm really looking forward to the new series because it introduces a whole new range of possibilities," Peter concluded. "My only complaint is that the book is scheduled as bimonthly, but I'm really happy that we have the space of 22 pages once again to work with all these developments." And who knows? Maybe if it's successful, DOCTOR STRANGE will once again attain monthly status.

—Glenn Herdling

EPIC® SPOTLIGHT

New Graphic Novel Takes You

SOMEPLACE Strange™

The saying, "What you are, surrounds you" was never truer than it is in the upcoming graphic novel, SOMEPLACE STRANGE, which mostly takes place in a surreal world that mirrors the emotions of two young brothers, **Edward** and **James**, and a teenage girl, **Joy**, as they confront their worst fears.

The action begins when the two boys go in search of the **Bogeyman**, soon after entering the surreal world through the basement of a strange house. As in classic tales such as ALICE IN WONDERLAND, the adventures and the characters that the trio encounters are as symbolic as they are entertaining. One of the novel's major events occurs when the older boy has his heart and soul stolen and the other two set off to save him.

The themes in SOMEPLACE STRANGE range from facing adulthood without losing childhood's magic to dealing with universal phobias. Its characters include **Dr. Shock**—whose name speaks for itself—and **Tearjerk**, an embodiment of despair. The story's three human protagonists, like kids everywhere, continually insult each other. SOMEPLACE STRANGE is amusing and frightening, nightmarish and familiar, colorful and definitely for all ages.

SOMEPLACE STRANGE is written by **Ann Nocenti**, ex-editor of CLASSIC X-MEN, X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, and WOLFPACK, who has written for numerous Marvel titles and now writes DAREDEVIL. The graphic novel's illustrator, **John Bolton**, is best known for his artwork for CLASSIC X-MEN, and the graphic novels, MARADA, THE SHE-WOLF and THE BLACK DRAGON.

Ann and John decided to work on a graphic novel together when both were working on CLASSIC X-MEN. John wanted to draw a "weird world," so Ann created a plot that featured one, and in-

SOMEPLACE STRANGE TM and © 1986 by Ann Nocenti and John Bolton.

cluded things that used to frighten her as a child, such as a closet whose clothing seems to form a monster's face in the dark.

"I could never sleep with the closet door open when I was little," said Ann. "I included a teddy bear that looks evil at night to reflect the fact that some kids feel their toys could turn on them."

About the novel's messages, Ann commented, "When the girl gets angry, a storm starts up behind her. It shows that when you're stuck in a mood, the world reflects it back until you can shake yourself out of it—and then it's as though you've changed the world. In the story, the actual landscape changes... When the younger boy insists that birds can talk, the idea behind that is that maybe birds *can* talk, and it's just that you have forgotten how to listen. The book says a lot about the magic of childhood."

"The novel's impact alternates between silly and horrific," Ann said. "You see something horrible, turn the page, and it turns into something silly."

The artistic influences evident in John Bolton's artwork in SOMEPLACE STRANGE range from German Expressionistic to Pop Art, and as John joked, "Surrealism, futurism, and a few other 'isms'.

"I included some fantasy elements out of nostalgia for some of my favorite childhood memories," John commented. "As the three of them enter the fantasy world, they pass a clown and some toys and Candyland (which I saw in some cartoon). As I drew the novel, I imagined that it was a cartoon with three live-action characters. The kids are always drawn realistically."

"Each character has their own color scheme," he went on. "For example Dr. Shock—who represents their fear of doctors, undertakers, and people like that—was done in pale greens and blues to emphasize his effect. The character Tearjerk—who appears whenever they feel unhappy—was done in just two colors, blue and red. This reflects the period when **Walt Disney** had the patent on Technicolor cartoons and all other cartoons were made with only two colors, and some old children's book illustrations I enjoyed, as well.

"I once saw a **Tex Avery** cartoon in which there is a chase that runs into black and white, and a sign that says, 'Technicolor ends here' and I thought that was wonderful, so I included a scene like that. It comes right after they leave Tearjerk. The whole book's in color, except for the scene in which the girl dreams in black and white (most dreams are in black and white)."

The two boys in the novel have the names and faces of John's two sons (while the girl, Joy, is purely imaginary). John and his wife appear in it as the boys' parents and the house pictured in it is their house.

"In the novel, the boys share a room, but in real life each has his own," said John. "The things shown on the wall are some of the actual things on the wall. It shows the way they used to look now, because I started working on it two years ago. They're really excited to be chronicled like this."

"In the novel, the older boy is about twelve, and he's harder-edged than his brother, who is about nine, and naive. He's kind of a future **Dr. Doolittle.** Edward, the older one, prefers being called **Spike,** while his brother, James, prefers being called **Zebra.**"

(Ann described Joy like this: "She's a brat, she's nasty all the time." Joy wears a punk outfit to give her a contemporary look.)

John feels that "it was a real treat working with Ann. Her writing is superb." Said Ann, "John is like a musician who can play blues, jazz, classical music, etc. because he can draw in any style he wants."

Archie Goodwin, editor in chief, of EPIC, the Marvel line producing SOMEPLACE STRANGE, described its basic theme as "confronting or failing to confront your own fears and the consequences thereof."

"It reminds me of **Steven Spielberg** movies—with a much darker edge," he said. "It's like a BOY'S LIFE adventure with a very dark horror story underneath, with qualities found in **Stephen King** and **Peter Straub's** THE TALISMAN, and NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET. It's sort of a bent PETER PAN. It also manages to work in one of the most unusual uses of Marvel super heroes that we've ever had." (Without giving too much away, the use to which Marvel super heroes are put involves the creation of a far-out composite hero who's part-Spider-Man, part-Iron Man, and part someone else!)

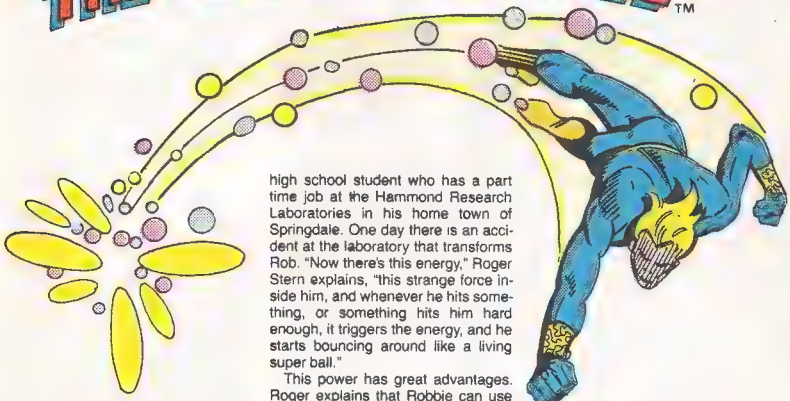
"Some think that because a story involves children, it's only for children," Archie continued, "but as readers of POWER PACK know, nothing could be further from the truth. SOMEPLACE STRANGE is an exciting, entertaining story for everybody."

SOMEPLACE STRANGE is due out in August. To further heighten the tension in the meantime, a few final words from Archie:

"The oldest boy is attacked by forces from that (fantasy) world in what I find a very horrific scene. I started in comics as an editor of horror comics and I still find that scene scary—and it takes a lot to scare me."

—Barbara Arnstein

SPEEDBALL
THE MASKED MARVEL™



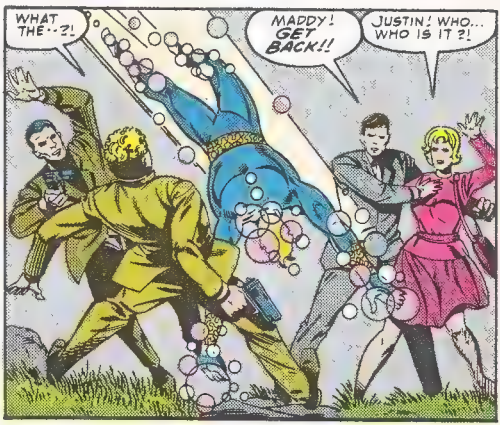
This spring a brand new teenage super hero in the tradition of the classic Marvel heroes of the 1960s makes his debut, not just in his own series but in two annuals as well. So prepare to welcome SPEEDBALL, THE MASKED MARVEL, who will star in a regular monthly comic book of the same name, each issue of which will contain two stories, both plotted and penciled by **Steve Ditko**, the acclaimed co-creator of **Spider-Man** and **Doctor Strange**, scripted by **Roger Stern**, and inked by **Jackson Guice**. The second story in the first issue will recount **Speedball's** origin. Then, shortly after SPEEDBALL's first issue appears, Speedball will make a guest appearance in this year's AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, plotted by Speedball's co-creator **Tom DeFalco**, in which the Masked Marvel meets both **Spider-Man** and **Daredevil** and finds himself battling the forces of the **High Evolutionary** in "The Evolutionary War" storyline that runs through all of this year's annuals. Following that, Speedball makes yet another guest appearance in this year's MARVEL AGE ANNUAL, which features a short five-page SPEEDBALL tale.

Speedball is **Robbie Baldwin**, a high school student who has a part time job at the Hammond Research Laboratories in his home town of Springdale. One day there is an accident at the laboratory that transforms Rob. "Now there's this energy," Roger Stern explains, "this strange force inside him, and whenever he hits something, or something hits him hard enough, it triggers the energy, and he starts bouncing around like a living super ball."

This power has great advantages. Roger explains that Robbie can use this power to ricochet off things and "to knock down people who are up to something nefarious, or to knock people out of danger and absorb the impact himself. The harder he hits, the harder and faster he bounces away."

In the first issue of SPEEDBALL, Robbie uses his powers to save his parents' lives.

The power has severe disadvantages as well, however, principally be-



cause so far, at least, Robbie is unable to control it. "He could get slapped on the back and start bouncing around the room," Roger explains. As a result, Robbie becomes afraid to do even some very ordinary kinds of things, and withdraws from other people to an extent. "Some of his buddies invite him for a pickup game of football," Roger says. "He'd love to come out and play with them, but if he gets hit, he's going to start bouncing around, and maybe his power could run out of control. Maybe he could be a danger to them." So he ends up saying no.

No one recognizes Speedball as Robbie because an effect of the energy causes Speedball to appear as if he is wearing a mask and costume. But, Roger points out, "as Speedball he's always in motion. If he slows down, he changes back into himself. So as Speedball he can never really stick around and explain anything."

The idea for the SPEEDBALL series began with Marvel's editor in chief, Tom DeFalco. "I came up with the original idea of the character, the starting point. I was basically dealing with the character's powers and the setup of his family situation. Steve Ditko then took that starting point and 'bounced' with it from there, in terms of creating the character's environment, his actual look, and the way his powers worked. Basically, he breathed life into the character." Tom has worked with Steve on some of the initial plots for the series, and Roger may take an active role in the plotting later on, but essentially the stories appearing in SPEEDBALL are Steve's. Tom and Roger have only praise for Steve's work on SPEEDBALL. "I think he's doing a terrific job," Tom says. "I don't even feel I have to say that. Anybody looking at the artwork is going to see how terrific it is." Roger comments that "Steve Ditko is, I think, unique in comics. He has influenced many, and he has many imitators, but he has no equal." Roger adds that "Steve's stories are about people. They may have crazy powers and get into strange situations, but down deep, they're folks. And pretty nice folks."

Why did Tom decide to make Speedball a high school student, as Spider-Man and the **Human Torch** were when they started out? "I felt we had enough older characters. I think a lot of our characters are getting a little bit too old at this stage of the game. I wanted to do a high school kid because when I started reading super hero comic books, that was the age I was at, and I really enjoyed reading about characters such as Spider-Man who was in high school at the same time that I was."

But Robbie Baldwin is a very different character than **Peter Parker** was when he was in high school. "Peter Parker was the boy genius," Roger says, "and fairly introverted. Rob is more well-rounded. He's not a wild extrovert, but he's not withdrawn the way Parker was. He's much more of an Everyman. He is your average teenage guy. He's an average high school student. He's no **Einstein**, but he's no dummy either." Tom DeFalco states that in high school Peter Parker "was an outsider. Robbie Baldwin is an insider. He is a popular kid. Up until his accident, up until he gets his superpowers, he is one of the inner circle. Robbie Baldwin is a lot closer to **Flash Thompson** in terms of personality than he is to Peter Parker. After he gets his powers, because of his fears about them, he begins to remove himself from interacting with the other kids, and they all react to that. This was a Mr. Popular kind guy, and now suddenly he's off to the side."

Something that Tom and Roger both see as making Robbie Baldwin a character of the 1980s, very different from other high school age characters in super hero series created in past decades, is his family situation. "He's got two working parents, both with real strong careers," Tom reveals. Rob's father, **Justin Baldwin**, is the assistant district attorney in Springdale. Rob's mother, **Madeline Naylor**, is a former actress who now works in local theater and academics. Justin wants Rob to become a lawyer like himself, whereas Madeline wants Rob to pursue a career in the arts. But Rob himself doesn't know yet what he wants to pursue as a career. "He's constantly caught in that conflict between his mother's desires and his father's desires, which I think is something a lot of us face as we grow up," Tom says. "Our mother wants us to do one thing. Dad wants us to do another. Which way do we go? I think when you're a teenager, you're still at the point where you're trying to please them, and you haven't yet learned how to please yourself."

At first, at least, Robbie will not tell his parents he has become Speedball for this very reason. Roger says, "He loves his parents a great deal. They love him and they love each other. But Rob's parents are at loggerheads with each other about what's best for his life and what he should do with his life and career. He doesn't want his parents arguing over him." Justin and Madeline do not know Speedball is their son, but Madeline regards Speedball as a hero whereas Justin is more suspicious, pointing out that nobody knows who this super-powered being really is. "Rob says, 'Oh, no, I gave them something new to argue about!'" says Roger. "Rob's whole

mindset is if he tells them that he's Speedball, they'll really freak out. He's not sure he should tell them. His decision right now is to delay the decision."

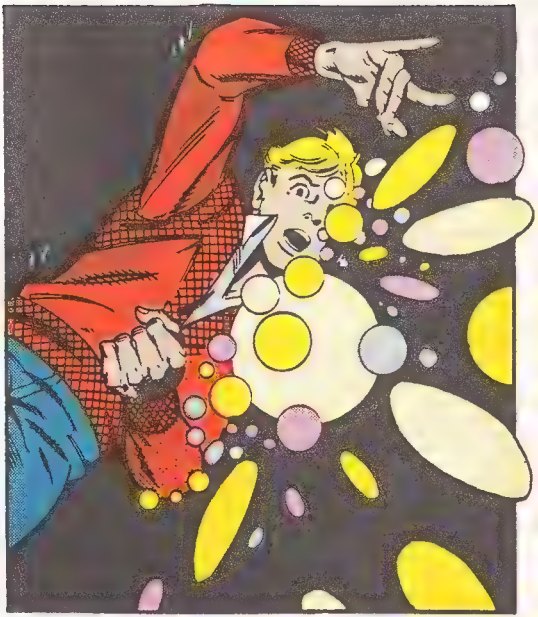
Another difference between the two characters lies in their motivation. Tom says, "The thrust of SPIDER-MAN was his responsibility to go out there and try to save the world. Robbie, at least in the beginning, will be more trying to save himself. Things were going very well for him, and then he had this monkey wrench thrown into his life: he got these great powers. The thrust of SPEEDBALL will be how he copes with this sudden upheaval in his life. Will he eventually become a classic super hero type, going out to fight crime? I don't know. I kind of doubt it."

Situations will arise, however, that plunge Speedball into what Tom calls "fun and game adventures." Speedball will run into brand new villains, some of whom are very bizarre characters indeed. "In the second issue there is a character called **the Sticker**," Roger reports. "He makes things stick together. In the third issue is a character called **Leaper Logan**, a sort of advanced second story man, who bounces around in his own manner. And then there are **the Graffit Guerrillas**, a sort of street gang."

Speedball's power is linked to the basic theme of his series, which Roger Stern describes as "the question of control: who's going to be the one to control his life." Just as Speedball has to learn how to control his strange new power that causes him to bounce all over the place, so too Robbie Baldwin has to learn how to take control of his life. "He's a character who bounces around and is trying to find a point of reference," states Tom. For example, he goes on, "Robbie is going to be continually 'bouncing' between his two parents" and their very different views on what career he should pursue. Right now, Roger Stern explains, Robbie "is trying to understand his new power. He's trying to get it under control. That's what teen years are like. You're going through all these weird changes and you're trying to get some kind of control over them so they don't run away with you. He just has more of a problem than most people do."

"We're bucking a lot of trends with SPEEDBALL," Tom DeFalco says. "These days a lot of writers feel they need six issues to tell one story. Well," he laughs, "we're going to do *two* stories in each issue, just to show them, 'No, you don't!'"

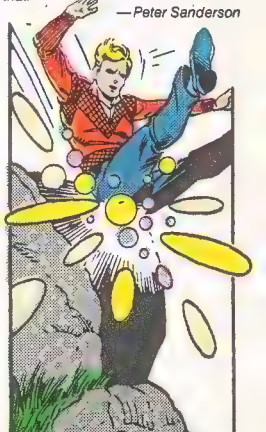
SPEEDBALL bucks what both Tom and Roger regard as another current trend in comics simply by being an upbeat, fun series. Tom reflects that recently, "Some of the better selling comics were of the more depressing sort. Since they were selling well, a lot of people said, 'Gee, the way to make money is to do depressing comics.' And I think now we've got an overkill of depressing material. I love comics, I've always enjoyed comics, and to me they are an expression of great joy. I would rather do comic books and read comic books that are fun than read comic books that are depressing. If I want to be depressed, I'll read THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and see how my stocks are doing."



Roger agrees, and even claims that "People who say that 'grim and gritty' is the wave of the future in comics are wrong. Sure, people get into some pretty grim situations at times, and certainly the teen years are full of fuss and confusion. But there's no reason there can't be a more hopeful outlook on things. And I think now, more than ever, we need some of that. Because there are the grim and gritty and down stories, and there should be, but there should be the balance as well."

In fact, according to Tom, SPEEDBALL is an attempt to recapture the sense of joy — the "bounce," you might say — of the classic Marvel series of the 1960s. "Across the board at Marvel we're trying to recapture a lot of the spirit of adventure and excitement that the early Marvel comics had, the feeling that anything new can happen, that it's an exciting world out there, and it's basically an upbeat world. I think SPEEDBALL reflects that."

—Peter Sanderson



THE MARVEL AGE 1977 PART II

Last month we reviewed all the new series that brightened the Marvel Universe in 1977! This month we'll survey the titles that went nova that year, and now only shine as fond memories in a collector's eye . . .

Perhaps the most fondly remembered title of that time was IRON FIST — though it couldn't sustain a regular audience, the character himself was popular enough to be teamed with another hero in similar straits, and so 1978 would see the coming of POWER MAN AND IRON FIST! That was yet to come in '77, though, as **Danny Rand** valiantly fought through five more issues of his own series. The **Claremont/Byrne** team was blossoming into one of the hottest writer/artist combos in comics at this time, and they relished pitting the Living Weapon against true challenges. First he went up against **the Wrecking Crew**, who were out practicing to kill **Thor**! As Danny sought help against the norn-powered quartet, he broke into Avengers Mansion, and found himself dueling **Captain America**! Cameos from **Matt Murdock**, **Heather Glenn**, **Jean Grey**, **Jim Shooter**, and **Roger Stern** kept IRON FIST fans reading carefully, as Danny next skirmished with the bloodthirsty **Sabretooth**! **Bomerang** provided further action, but the best came in the final issue, with **Iron Fist** matched against none other than the uncanny **X-Men**! Their conflict was essentially one of comics' silly misunderstandings, but it provided outstanding martial art heroics as only Claremont and Byrne could deliver them! This final issue also sowed seeds for the future, as **Misty Knight** went undercover with **Bushmaster** (soon to figure heavily in POWER MAN), and the **Steel Serpent** began to stalk Iron Fist (he'd catch up to him in MARVEL TEAM-UP).

Another martial arts book to leave the scene in '77 was the long-running magazine, THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU . . . but not before producing perhaps the most memorable epic of its whole run! Chris Claremont and **Marshall Rogers** teamed to weave a beautiful, savage story of Misty Knight and **Colleen Wing**, **the Daughters of the Dragon**. Stalking heroin dealers in Hong Kong, Misty, and Colleen were captured and forcibly addicted to heroin themselves! Their triumph over enemies both without and within was both stirring and unforgettable. The **Sons of the Tiger** were nearly reunited in the penultimate issue of DHOKF, but the final fate of Tiger Son **Abe Brown** would wait for another

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THE SPIDER-WOMAN
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I'VE FOUND YOU, FURY--AND NOW I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
POSITIVELY THE MOST SHOCKING ENDING YOU'LL READ THIS MONTH!

day, as **Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu**, enjoyed a solo adventure to close out the run.

As the martial arts era was nearing an end, so too was the monster/horror craze giving up the ghost (dare we say?). SON OF SATAN, WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, and WEIRD WONDER TALES all met their last rewards in 1977. **Daimon Hellstrom** went out in style, as writer **Bill Mantlo** and artist **Russ Heath** delivered a tightly-crafted tale of **Satan's** own nightmares, which strike every year on Christmas Eve. **Jack Russell**, California's favorite Werewolf By Night, had just completed his Big Change, allowing him to transform to wolfhood at will, giving him an extra edge over **Iron Man** and the monstrous **Tri-Animan**. And while WEIRD WONDER TALES was essentially a horror reprint book, it also managed to produce something of note in its final moments: the resurrection of an obscure mystical character named **Dr. Druid**! The good doctor's now a proud member of the Avengers, but his modern Marvel career began here! (By the way, a text page in the final issue of WEIRD WONDER TALES said that the reprint researchers had unearthed an untold tale of **May** and **Ben Parker**, by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**! **Jim Salicrup**, are you listening? Any chance it can be brought to the light of day?)

When Marvel ends a series, we make every effort to tie up its loose ends first — but sometimes time runs out before that's possible! Such was the case with KA-ZAR, who met his end in the midst of a multi-part fantasy involving the venomous **Quarlians**, sky-sharks, the dazed heroine **Tandy Snow**, and much, much more! Things were eventually resolved elsewhere so that the **Bruce Jones/Brent Anderson** KA-ZAR which debuted years later could make a fresh start. And it was left to THE DEFENDERS, a few years down the road, to solve the ever-growing enigma of OMEGA THE UNKNOWN. The **Steve Gerber** creation continued in 1977 to do battle with the **Wrench**, **Nitro**, **Blockbuster**, and mysterious demons in the desert, while his supporting cast grappled with the conundrums enveloping them all. While **Omega's** story was wrapped up in THE DEFENDERS, how it might

MARVEL® COMICS PRICE GUIDE

So let's say we've whetted your curiosity, and you want to check out the original versions of all these super-sagas? Here's what you can expect to pay for these back issues at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #17. But remember — this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be even less for copies in fair or poor condition

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **CHAMPIONS**			
2–9		.50	1.00
■ **DEFENDERS**			
31–42 (35 intro **Red Guardian**)		.40	.80
ANNUAL 1	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **ETERNALS**			
1	40		80
2–6	25		50
■ **FANTASTIC FOUR**			
166–177		60	1 20
ANNUAL 11	25	75	1 50
■ **INHUMANS**			
3–8		.50	1 00
■ **INVADERS**			
4–10 (6 intro **Union Jack**)		35	70
11 (origin **Spitfire**)		25	50
■ **MARVEL CHILLERS (Tigra)**			
3–5, 7		25	50
6 (Byrne art)		50	1 00
■ **MARVEL PRESENTS (Guardians of the Galaxy)**			
3		.50	1 00
4–8		40	.80
■ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (Thing team-ups)**			
13–20	.35	1 10	2 20
21–22	25	70	1 40
ANNUAL 1 (w/**Liberty Legion**)	30	80	1 60
■ **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY**			
1 (Marvel Treasury Edition, movie adapted)	35	1 00	2 00
1 (comic book series begins)		30	60
■ **X-MEN**			
97–99, 101 (101, **Phoenix** 1st app.)	5 00	15 00	30 00
100 (**Phoenix** origin begins)	5 85	17 50	35 00
102	2.75	8 25	16 50

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THE INHUMANS FACE MOR-TOE THE MIGHTIEST KREE WARRIOR OF ALL!
TO MEET THE MAKER OF DEATH!

have originallly concluded may always be as much a mystery as Omega himself!

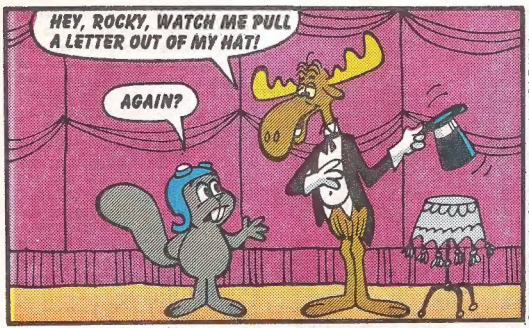
STAR WARS — both the movie and the comic — premiered in 1977, revitalizing science fiction and space fantasy in all media. But the spectacle of STAR WARS came too late to help out every sf series. MARVEL PRESENTS, featuring the **Guardians of the Galaxy**, endured the year, unfolding the amazing origin of their awesome leader, **Starhawk**. As **Stakar** and **Aleta** merged to become one being, the Starhawk, under the guidance of their planet's hawk-god, the villainous **Ogord** had transformed their children into the psychic vampires of Arcturus! The children died as a result of Ogord's scheming, and as Starhawk grieved, a visit to the Shipyard of Deep Space wrapped up the Guardians' amazing adventures.

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT and INHUMANS, both heavily influenced by science fiction, ended their runs as well in '77, but again, not without leaving memorable moments in their wake. MARVEL SPOTLIGHT introduced **Jessica Drew**, the original **Spider-Woman**, and brought her into conflict with **Nick Fury**, director of S.H.I.E.L.D.! Jessica's story would continue in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, and subsequently in her own book! SPOTLIGHT's last issue furthered the exploits of **Deathlok the Demolisher**, as he battled Defender-to-be, the **Devil Slayer**! Meanwhile, the **Inhumans**' intergalactic quest to find a new refuge met with failure, as they were ambushed repeatedly by Kree emissaries such as the malicious **Mor-Tog** and the sinister **Pursuer**! A go-round against the **Hulk** concluded their series — but they will be back! Check MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #4 for the announcement of the upcoming INHUMANS Graphic Novel!

That's why these late series are especially dear: from the ashes, so often new legends arise and thrive! **Jack Kirby's** movie-based series, 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, ended this year, but in the course of it made a major contribution to the Marvel mythos! After a sequence of stories showing the effects of the monolith on various folks in pre- and future history — such as **Vera Gentry** and **Vira the She-Demon**, **Marak the Merciless**, and **Norton** of New York — Kirby tried a bizarre twist. What if, instead of moving humans up the evolutionary scale, the monolith applied its energies to a robot? Thus, **X-51**, designed by inventor **Aaron Stack**, gained a higher consciousness. He began to call himself **Mister Machine**. But you would come to know him as **Machine Man**!

PLANET OF THE APES and DOC SAVAGE, two of Marvel's black-and-white magazine delights, closed up shop in '77 — APES with episodes of the "Battle for . . . " movie; its original sequel, "Terror on . . . "; and a final installment of the hauntingly poetic Future History Chronicles. **Doug Moench's** intricate epics would be missed, both there and in DOC SAVAGE, which left town in a final two issues recounting the Man of Bronze's struggles against the **Mayan Mutations** (South American insect-things), and the **Octo-Brain** (a malevolent force kidnaping major scientists). The black-and-white market was reshaping itself, discovering important new directions for the future.

A quick mention of 1977's MARVEL MOVIE SPECIALS gives a hint of that future, for the immense success to come for Marvel with comics adaptations of feature films began that year, with one-shot editions of THE DEEP and THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU. It wouldn't be long before these adaptations would be presented in the quality format of the MARVEL COMICS SUPER SPECIAL. But that was yet to come. For now, these were the legends laid to rest in 1977. Many were the legends, though, that endured and prospered! Next month, we'll review the adventures of Marvel's solo super heroes in '77, as **Spider-Man** meets **Nova**, **Captain America** explores his childhood, **Iron Man** celebrates his centennial issue, and much, much more! —*Brian Nelson*



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Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016

What a great way to start off a letter column — a paraphrase from one of our favorite animated TV shows of all time! The idea comes to us from John Safin of Cortland, NY. Thanks a lot, John! And by the way, you have been keeping up with the BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY Star Comics series, haven't you, John? Yeah, we figured as much. After all, how could any fan of the Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoons stay away?

As for the rest of you out there: We still need a new, amazingly cool letter column title every single month. So get crackin' and send in those ideas! If we use your title, we'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thanks." Wow! Just the thought of it kinda makes you tingle all over, doesn't it?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Will there be other volumes in the MARVEL MASTERWORKS series? There could be a MARVEL MASTERWORKS book for **Captain America**, **Iron Man**, **Daredevil**, **Thor**, the **Hulk**, and the **Avengers**.

Also, is there going to be a new series with the **Black Panther** in it?

Until **Wolverine** writes children's books, Make Mine Marvel!

C.J. Stansberry
9331 N. Waverly Dr.
Milwaukee, WA 53217

Well, C.J., as you probably know by now, the BLACK PANTHER Limited Series is on the stands even as we speak. And if you've already checked out Stan's Soapbox on page 14, you know that more MARVEL MASTERWORKS volumes are on their way! In addition to new FANTASTIC FOUR, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, and THE UNCANNY X-MEN volumes which pick up where last year's left off, there will be an AVENGERS book re-presenting the first ten issues of that classic title. Not only that, but there'll also be a second printing of the first FANTASTIC FOUR MARVEL MASTERWORKS, this time with the first ten pages of the story from FF #5 printed in the right order.

Dear Marvelites,

Proving myself to be a true Marvel maniac, I once again pick up the pen and take a whack at the ever-elusive and eagerly sought after . . . (everybody now), NO-PRIZE (prize, prize, prize, prize . . .) Well, here goes . . .

In MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #3, the great **Fred Hembeck** interviewed **Uatu**, otherwise known as **the Watcher**. Fred asked, "So what brings the cosmic **Alan Funt** to center stage today? Don't tell me they're bringing back WHAT IF . . . ?" Uatu replied, "Afraid not, Fred . . . " BUT in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #60, under "Titles Shipping in February," the 21st listing in the second column on page seven clearly states, "WHAT IF . . . ? #1."

Well, I offer the following explanation: Uatu, although he sometimes doesn't follow it, is aware of the Watchers' prime directive, "Observe but don't interfere." The Watcher could not possibly reveal that WHAT IF . . . ? was coming back without breaking that prime directive.

So what do you say, people? Do I get one or do I get one?

Justin Neff
1512 West Lemon
Lompoc, CA 93436

You get one, Justin! Congratulations! A geniuine low-calorie, scuff-proof No-Prize is winging its way to your door.

But to tell you the truth, the Watcher wasn't really concealing anything about WHAT IF . . . ? #1. It seems that . . . um . . . after we decided to bring back WHAT IF . . . ?, well . . . we lost Uatu's phone number and couldn't tell him about it. These things just happen sometimes.

Ah, yes, there's that friendly yellow background again. Guess that means it's time for this issue's LETTER OF THE MONTH! Each month, we pick a letter (or sometimes two letters, if we're having a particularly good day) that addresses an issue which we think will be of special interest to the ranks of Marveldom at large. That lucky letter is given the much-envied title of Letter of the Month and emblazoned in the hearts of men for centuries to come . . . or at least printed here against a snappy yellow background.

This time around, our Letter of the Month asks a question that we think should be of particular interest to folks who get their Marvel Comics through the mail.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

It has come to my attention that soon I'll be going off to college. That brings me to my question: Can a subscriber to one of your magazines continue receiving his subscription while attending college? Will his issues be sent directly to him at his college or will they be sent to his house and cause the subscriber to go home more often than he should (and possibly inconvenience him in the process)? If so, how does he inform the Marvel subscription department of his moving to college? If not, why not? And does it mean he'll have to cancel your subscription just because he's going to college?

Rodney Cooke
823 Rauhut St.
Burlington, NC 27215

Of course you won't have to cancel your subscriptions just because you're going to college, Rodney! Why, Marvel comic books have graced the hallowed halls of academe ever since the '60s, when Marvel helped prove that comics aren't just for kids! Here's what you do: send us your old address label *and* your new address and be sure to send it to THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016. Otherwise, your letter will get lost in the mountain of fan mail we get every day, delaying your issues.

And by the way, Rodney, even if your subscriptions are being delivered to your college address, it'd probably be a good idea to go home from time to time anyway.

Dear People Persons,

Wow! Simply fantastic! Marvelous!

That letter by the great **Matthew Ryan Reischer** in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #62 was spectacular. I bet there are millions of people out there who would die just to even touch his hand or get his autograph.

David Reischer

P.S. Please print this letter or I won't get the twenty dollars for writing it.

Don't spend it all in one place, David.

Dear Mutant Masters,

How about a mutant annual or special extravaganza with **X-Factor**, the **X-Men**, **Excalibur**, and the **New Mutants** (maybe in an X-MEN ANNUAL and NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL)?

Keith Harris
Lorain, OH

Would you settle for a giant crossover spanning the likes of THE X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, EXCALIBUR, X-FACTOR, POWER PACK, and THE AVENGERS, Keith? That's what's coming your way in a few months when demons from Illyana's limbo dimension try to invade Earth! You'll find more details next month in the MARVEL AGE ANNUAL, not to mention in future issues of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. But then, you already knew where to look, didn't you?

Oops! Looks like we're coming up on the end of yet another lilting letter column. And you know what that means — it's time to meet another batch of MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS!

Yes, Marvel Correspondents; those friendly folks looking to exchange views and chit-chat with new friends from all four corners of the globe. Why not drop one or two of them a line? After all, as the Post Office used to say, "Air Mail is socially correct!"

And remember: If you'd like to be listed in this space yourself, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics to Marvel Correspondents, c/o MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE at the address atop this letter column. Go ahead — you've got nothing to lose but a stamp!

Richard Gower
Mole End Cottage
Green Lane
Littlewick Green
Maidenhead
Berkshire SL6 3RH
Littlewick Green 2683
ENGLAND
Age: 12
Favorites: THE AVENGERS, X-MEN, THE PUNISHER

Kelly Marie Halliwell
2-158 Wentworth S.
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 2Z2
CANADA
Age: 24
Favorites: X-MEN, THE PUNISHER, STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI

Zakarij Horose
837 S. DeFrame Way
Lakewood, CO 80226
Age: 11
Favorites: CLASSIC X-MEN, FANTASTIC FOUR, THOR

Nicholas Smith
2103 Pleasantview Le.
Bellevue, NE 68005
Age: 15
Favorites: X-FACTOR, X-MEN, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Damien Duchamp
P.O. Box 525
Woodstock, NY 12498
Age: 13
Favorites: DAREDEVIL, SPIDER-MAN, CAPTAIN AMERICA

Robert N. Talbert
Rt. 2, Box 294
White Bluff, TN 37187
Age: 17
Favorites: WEST COAST AVENGERS, GROO, ALPHA FLIGHT

Alan Lan
56 Littwan Dr.
Singapore 1955
SINGAPORE
Age: 15
Favorites: G.I. JOE, THE 'NAM, ALIEN LEGION

Janice Barlow
35 Pine Grove Ave.
Lynn, MA 01905
Age: 11
Favorites: G.I. JOE, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE STAR BRAND

Amy Rambow
6736 Holly La.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
Age: 14
Favorites: X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR

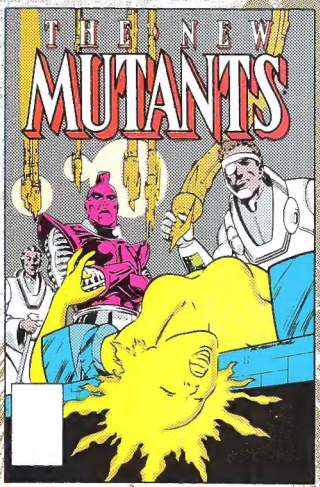
Ed Stastny
9018 Westridge Dr.
Omaha, NE 68124
Age: 15
Favorites: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, THE PUNISHER, X-MEN

ANSWERS TO MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

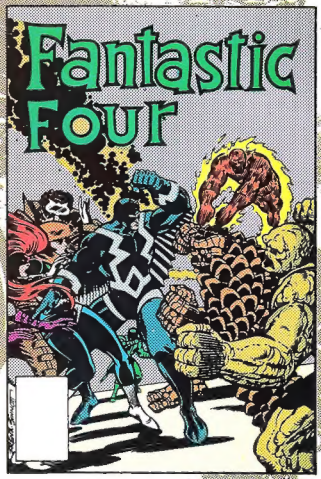
1. "The darkness and the light are both alike; I am fearfully and wonderfully made." — Psalms 139: 12–14.
2. His left; and no, probably not.
3. Libya.
4. MARVEL CHILLERS.
5. **Enitharmon the Weaver.**
6. **Mayhem.**
7. **Umar** and **Orini.**
8. PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN.
9. **Papa Jambo.**
10. **Doctor Stranger** Yet!
11. The **Golem.**
12. **Captain Autolycus.**
13. **Yandroth.**
14. **Rex Carpenter.**
15. His head was masked within a mystic blue hood.
16. The **Yellow Claw** — but really, the android of the Claw was created for the chess game between **Dr. Doom** and the **Prime Mover!**
17. The **Living Tribunal**
18. The **Brain-o-Saur.**
19. The Torch's debut in STRANGE TALES.
20. 1951!

HE'S COMING THIS SUMMER!

THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR™



ANNUAL #4



ANNUAL #21

ANNUAL #22

ON SALE THIS MONTH FROM MARVEL®!

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